

Gamesley Early Excellence Centre

Allergies

Whilst food allergies are estimated to affect between one and two percent of the adult population food allergies in infants and children are more prevalent. The most common allergenic foods are: eggs, fish, milk, shellfish, tree nuts and seeds, soya, peanuts, wheat.

Allergies to certain foods can be particularly acute. If a child suffers from a food allergy, whether severe or not, we need to know so that this may be recorded and acted upon appropriately to keep the child safe.

At Gamesley Early Excellence Centre parents are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded both on the admissions form and on the 'Home / Nursery Assessment Report' at the initial home visit for children entering the nursery school. It is also displayed in the kitchen of each room and in the over 3's story corners

If a child has an allergy a risk assessment form is completed to detail the following:

- The allergen ie the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to, such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, animal fur.
- The nature of the allergic reaction/s eg anaphylactic shock reaction, rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
- What to do in case of allergic reactions
- Medication used and how it is to be used eg EpiPen
- Control measures, how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.

This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file with a copy to the Head of centre and with a child's health care plan if one is in place.

It may be appropriate for us to administer 'over the counter' medication, such as Piriton, for children who have a minor allergy / intolerance. If parents wish us to do so they will need to sign a medication form and the risk assessment form.

If a child has a severe allergy and requires an 'EpiPen' then staff will have relevant training from a Health care professional, this is usually the school nurse. Parents will also will need to sign a medication form and the risk assessment form.

If a child has a severe allergy to a known food product then it is our responsibility to inform the nursery catering staff to ensure that the child with an allergy is given an alternative meal and care is taken in the preparation of the meal to avoid cross contamination.

No nuts or nut products are knowingly used within the nursery and we are a 'peanut free' zone. As part of our centre food policy and approach to healthy eating all parents are asked not to bring food items into nursery to celebrate birthdays etc.

We have practitioners in all rooms at all times who are qualified to level 3 in Paediatric First Aid. This training covers identifying and responding to allergic reactions including anaphylaxis.