

FOOD AND DRINK

Food and drink

It is my policy to provide children with healthy, balanced and nutritious meals, snacks and drinks.

I am wholly responsible for the preparation and handling of food and am competent to do so. I follow the Government COVID 19 guidance. I can also confirm that I am Level 2 qualified in Food Safety and Hygiene for Early Years Settings.

Procedure (how I will put the statement into practice)

Before a child is admitted I will obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies, and any special health requirements

I will collect, record and act on information from parents about a child's dietary needs.

In light of COVID-19 and the risk of infection, I ask for children's lunches to be provided in a sealed, plastic lunchbox so that it can be easily wiped and disinfected before being placed in my fridge. These will be stored appropriately and in line with Government guidelines.

I will now be providing each child with their own drinking cup/bottle which will remain at the setting and be washed in the dishwasher every evening so there is no need to send this from home.

I will also provide children with clean and age-appropriate crockery and eating utensils. In order to minimise the risk of infection (particularly COVID 19) I will ensure children's plates, cutlery and cups are not shared and are cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Where possible, children will be sat apart from each other at mealtimes, e.g. not directly next to or opposite, but still on the same table.

I will respect the diversity of practice around mealtimes e.g. use of chopsticks or fingers for eating, while following appropriate hygiene procedures.

I will provide children with healthy meals, snacks and drinks as appropriate, following NHS and government guidelines. Children will be able to prepare their own snacks but these won't be shared with others.

I will ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times, both in and outside my setting. I will also ensure children do not share drinking cups.

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As a provider of meals and snacks I am aware of my responsibilities under food hygiene legislation. This includes registration with the relevant Local Authority Environmental Health Department where I am happy to have my premises inspected by a food safety officer.

I will detail any allergens that are present in the food that I prepare for children in accordance with EU Information for Consumers Regulation 2014 and detailed on www.food.gov.uk, and share this with parents/carers.

I will list any allergens in ingredients that are present in any food that I produce, or provide for the children. I will also be aware when I take children out to eat at other settings. All registered food businesses have to comply with the legislation so I will make sure I am aware of any allergens and make this part of my risk assessment.

I will ensure suitable sterilisation equipment is available for babies' food.

I will keep pets out of the food preparation area at all times. If my family pet does gain access to this area then I will ensure that all work surfaces and cooking utensils have been thoroughly cleaned before any food preparation or food handling takes place.

Baby changing facilities will not be near food preparation areas.

I will ensure that I, and any visitor to my setting, as well as the children themselves, are aware of good hand washing procedures and how these are carried out. Hand washing procedures will be carried out regularly throughout the day. Where this isn't possible then sanitising hand gel will be used.

I will not undertake laundry during times of food preparation and I will ensure that any detergents or soiled clothing will not come into contact with food preparation areas.

If there is an outbreak of food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on my premises I will notify Ofsted as soon as possible but definitely within 14 days of the incident occurring in order to comply with regulations. This includes incidents which occur outside childcare business hours (e.g. at home).

I will keep all food receipts, including those under £10, so that if there is an outbreak of food poisoning on my premises, I will be able to trace the outlet where the food was purchased.

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I have read and understand the Food and Drink Policy.

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	
Parent(s)' name	
Parent(s)' signature	
Date	

Date policy was written	30 th January 2021
This policy is due for review on the following date	30 th January 2022