

Reviewed: January 2019
Next Review Date: January 2020



Food and Drink Policy



Little Acorns regards snack and meal times as an important part of the setting's day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. At snack and meal times, we aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs.

Procedures

We follow these procedures to promote healthy eating in our setting.

- Before a child starts to attend the setting, we find out from parents their children's dietary needs and preferences, including any allergies. (See the Managing Children with Allergies policy.)
- We record information about each child's dietary needs in her/his registration record and parents sign the record to signify that it is correct.
- We regularly consult with parents to ensure that our records of their children's dietary needs - including any allergies - are up-to-date. Parents sign the up-dated record to signify that it is correct.
- We display current information about individual children's dietary needs so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed about them.
- We implement systems to ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and preferences as well as their parents' wishes.
- We display the menus of meals/snacks for the information of parents.
- At snack time we offer fruit, milk or water. On occasion we may offer toast, rice cakes or breadsticks.
- We provide nutritious food, avoiding large quantities of saturated fat, sugar, salt, artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- Our lunch is prepared on site in the kitchen at Woodlands school. A variety of foods from the four main food groups is provided:

- meat, fish and protein alternatives;
 - dairy foods;
 - grains, cereals and starch vegetables; and
 - fruit and vegetables.
- We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts.
 - Through discussion with parents and research reading by staff, we obtain information about the dietary rules of the religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, and about food allergies. We take account of this information in the provision of food and drinks.
 - We provide a vegetarian alternative on days when meat or fish are offered.
 - We require staff to show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. Staff do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child or make a child feel singled out because of her/his diet or allergy.
 - We organise meal and snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate.
 - We use meal and snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink and feeding themselves.
 - We provide children with utensils that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and that take account of the eating practices in their cultures.
 - We have fresh drinking water constantly available for the children. We inform the children about how to obtain the water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
 - We inform parents who provide food for their children about the storage facilities available in the setting.
 - In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
 - For children who drink milk, we provide whole pasteurised milk.
 - For each child under two, we provide parents with daily written information about feeding routines, intake and preferences.

Legal framework

- Regulation (EC) 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs

