**Food safety and nutrition policy**

# Alongside associated procedures in 03.1-03.6 Food safety and nutrition, this policy was adopted by *Five Wents Pre-School* on *20th August 2021*.

# Aim

Our setting is a suitable, clean, and safe place for children to be cared for, where they can grow and learn. We meet all statutory requirements for food safety and fulfil the criteria for meeting the relevant Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare requirements

###### **Objectives**

* We recognise that we have a corporate responsibility and duty of care for those who work in and receive a service from our provision, but individual employees and service users also have responsibility for ensuring their own safety as well as that of others. Risk assessment is the key means through which this is achieved.
* Procedure 01.3 Kitchen is followed for general hygiene and safety in food preparation areas.
* We provide nutritionally sound meals and snacks which promote health and reduce the risk of obesity and heart disease that may begin in childhood.
* We follow the main advice on dietary guidelines and the legal requirements for identifying food allergens when planning menus based on the four food groups:
* meat, fish, and protein alternatives
* milk and dairy products
* cereals and grains
* fresh fruit and vegetables.
* Following dietary guidelines to promote health also means taking account of guidelines to reduce risk of disease caused by unhealthy eating.
* Parents share information about their children’s particular dietary needs with staff when they enrol their children and on an on-going basis with their key person. This information is shared with all staff who are involved in the care of the child.
* Foods provided by the setting for children have any allergenic ingredients identified on the menus.
* Care is taken to ensure that children with food allergies do not have contact with food products that they are allergic to.
* Risk assessments are conducted for each individual child who has a food allergy or specific dietary requirement.

**Legal references**

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

Food Information Regulations 2014

The Childcare Act 2006

**Further guidance**

*Safer Food Better Business* for Caterers (Food Standards Agency) https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/safer-food-better-business-for-caterers

Food safety and nutrition procedures

**03.1 Food preparation, storage and purchase**

**General**

* All relevant staff have up to date certificated training on food safety.
* Cooks refer to Eat Better, Start Better (Action for Children 2017) and Example menus for early years settings in England (PHE 2017) which contains guidance on menu planning, food safety, managing food allergies and reading food labels.
* The setting manager is responsible for ensuring that the requirements in Safer Food Better Business are implemented.
* All staff responsible for preparing food have undertaken the Food Allergy Online Training CPD module available at <http://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/>.
* The setting manager is responsible for overseeing the work of the cook and all food handlers to ensure hygiene and allergy procedures are complied with.
* The setting manager has responsibility for conducting risk assessment based on the ‘Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point’ method set out in Safer Food Better Business.
* Staff carry out and record daily opening/closing checks, four weekly reviews and dated records of deep cleaning.
* The cook and setting manager maintain a Food Allergy and Dietary Needs folder with:
* a list of all children with known food allergies or dietary needs updated at least once a term (the personal/medical details about the allergy or dietary needs remain in the child’s file along with a copy of the risk assessment). This is clearly displayed for all staff and the risk assessment shared with all staff.
* a record of food menus along with any allergens using
* a copy of the FSA booklet ‘Allergen information for loose foods’ available at www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/loosefoodsleaflet.pdf
* a copy of the Food Allergy Online Training CPD certificate for the cook and each member of staff that has undertaken the training
* The setting manager is responsible for informing the owners/trustees/directors who then reports to Ofsted any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises. Notification must be made as soon as possible and within 14 days of the incident.

# Purchasing and storing food

* Food is purchased from reputable suppliers.
* Parents are requested not to bring food that contains nuts. Staff check packets to make sure they do not contain nuts or nut products.
* Bulk buy is avoided where food may go out of date before use.
* All opened dried food stuffs are stored in airtight containers.
* Dried packaged food is not decanted from packaging into large bins or containers as this prevents monitoring of sell by/use by dates and allergen information.
* Food is regularly checked for sell by/use by dates and any expired items are discarded.
* Bottles and jars are cleaned before returning to the cupboards.
* ‘Squeezy’ plastic bottles are not used for sauces.
* Items are not stored on the floor; floors are kept clear so they can be easily swept.
* Perishable foods such as dairy produce, meat and fish are to be used the next/same day. Soft fruit and easily perishable vegetables are kept in the fridge at 1- 5 Celsius.
* Fridge and freezer thermometers should be in place. Recommended temperatures for fridge 37 degrees Fahrenheit (3 degrees Celsius), and freezers 0 degrees Fahrenheit (-18 degrees Celsius). Temperatures must be checked and recorded daily to ensure correct temperatures are being maintained.
* Meat/fish is stored on lower shelves and in drip-free dishes.
* Fruit and vegetables stored in the fridge are washed thoroughly before refrigeration to reduce risk of pests and E.coli contamination.
* Staff’s own food or drink should be kept in separate designated area of the fridge; where possible, a fridge should be kept in the staff room to avoid mix ups.
* Items in fridges must be regularly checked to ensure they are not past use by dates.

**Preparation of food**

* Food handlers must check the content of food/packets to ensure they do not contain allergens.
* Food allergens must be identified on the menus and displayed for parents.
* Food handlers wash hands and cover any cuts or abrasions before handling food.
* Separate boards and knives are used for chopping food, usually colour coded.
* Raw and cooked foods are prepared separately.
* All vegetables and fruit are washed before preparing.
* Food left out is covered, for example when cooling down.
* Food prepared and cooked for different religious dietary needs and preferences, such as Halal or Kosher meat is cooked in separate pans and served separately.
* Food cooked for vegetarians does not come into contact with meat or fish or products.
* Food cooked and prepared for children with specific dietary needs is cooked in separate pans and served separately.
* A separate toaster is kept and used for children with a wheat or gluten allergy.
* Food prepared for children with dietary needs and preferences is clearly labelled and every effort is made to prevent cross-contamination.
* Raw eggs are not to be given in any form, such as mousse or mayonnaise.
* When given to children, eggs are fully cooked.

# Serving Food

* Food is served for children in separate covered containers for each table.
* Staff risk assess the likelihood of children with dietary restrictions accessing the food of other children and must take appropriate action to prevent this from happening, for example:
* check the list of children’s dietary requirements displayed in the food preparation area
* Children with allergies/food preferences are not made to feel ‘singled out’ by the methods used to manage their allergy/food preference.
* Food served to children with identified allergies is checked by the key person to ensure that the meal (and its ingredients) does not contain any of the allergens for that child.
* Tables are cleaned before and after, with soapy water or a suitable non-bleach product.
* Members of staff serving food wash their hands and cover any cuts with a blue plaster.

**E.coli prevention**

Staff who are preparing and handling food, especially food that is not pre-prepared for consumption e.g. fruit and vegetables grown on the premises, must be aware of the potential spread of E.coli and must clean and store food in accordance with the E.coli 0157 guidance, available at:

[www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/hygguid/ecoliguide#.U7FCVGlOWdI](https://preschoolla.sharepoint.com/sites/COMM/Shared%20Documents/Pubs/Pubs%20Print%20Promo/Pub%20Drafts/A026%20Policies%20%26%20Procedures%20for%20the%20EYFS%202021/A026%20FINAL/www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/hygguid/ecoliguide#.U7FCVGlOWdI)

**Further guidance**

Eat Better, Start Better (Action for Children 207) [www.foundationyears.org.uk/eat-better-start-better/](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eat-better-start-better/)

Example Menus for Early Years Settings in England (PHE 2017) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/example-menus-for-early-years-settings-in-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/example-menus-for-early-years-settings-in-england)

Safe Food Better Business [www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/safer-food-better-business-sfbb](http://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/safer-food-better-business-sfbb)

Allergen information for loose foods (Food Standards Agency 2017) [www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/loosefoodsleaflet.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/loosefoodsleaflet.pdfn)

Campylobacter (Food Standards Agency) [www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/campylobacter/fsw-2014](http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/campylobacter/fsw-2014)

Food safety and nutrition procedures

**03.2 Food for play and cooking activities**

Some parents and staff may have strong views about food being used for play. It is important to be sensitive to these issues. For example, children who are Muslim, Jewish, Rastafarian, or who are vegetarian, should not be given any food to play with that contains animal products (Gelatine). Parents’ views should be sought on this. In some cases, it is not appropriate to use food for play at all, particularly in times of austerity.

* Food for play may include dough, corn flour, pasta, rice, food colourings/flavourings.
* Food for play is risk assessed against the 14 allergens referred and is included in the written risk assessment undertaken for children with specific allergies.
* Staff are constantly alert to the potential hazards of food play, in particular choking hazards and signs of previously undetected allergies.
* Pulses are not recommended as they can be poisonous when raw or may choke.
* The use of raw vegetables for printing is discouraged.
* Dried food that is used for play should be kept away from food used for cooking.
* Foods that are cooked and used for play, such as dough, have a limited shelf life.
* Cornflour is always mixed with water before given for play.
* Cornflower and cooked pasta are discarded after an activity; high risk of bacteria forming.
* Utensils used for play food are washed thoroughly after use.

**Children’s cooking activities**

* Before undertaking any cooking activity with children, members of staff should check for allergies and intolerances by checking children’s records.
* Children are taught basic hygiene skills such as the need to wash hands thoroughly before handling food, and again after going to the toilet, blowing their nose or coughing.
* The area to be used for cooking is cleaned; a plastic tablecloth is advised.
* Children should wear aprons that are used just for cooking.
* Utensils provided are for children to use only when cooking, including chopping/rolling boards, bowls, wooden spoons, jugs, and are stored in the kitchen.
* Members of staff encourage children to handle food in a hygienic manner.
* Food ready for cooking or cooling is not left uncovered.
* Cooked food to go home is put in a paper food bag and refrigerated until home time.
* Food play activities are suspended during outbreaks of illness.

Food safety and nutrition procedures

**03.4 Menu planning and nutrition**

Food supplied for children provides a healthy and balanced diet for healthy growth and development. Foods that contain any of 14 allergens identified by the FSA are identified on menus. The setting follows dietary guidance to promote health and reduce risk of disease caused by unhealthy eating. When planning menus, the setting manager and cook ensure that:

* Parents and staff are able to contribute ideas for menus which are confirmed each week in advance. A four- to six-week cycle reviewed seasonally is a good way of working out menus.
* Menus reflect children’s cultural backgrounds, religious restrictions and the food preferences of some ethnic groups.
* Menus are clearly displayed so that parents and staff know what is being provided.
* Foods that contain any of the 14 major allergens are identified on the menu that is displayed for parents.
* Parents must share information about their children’s particular dietary needs with staff when they enrol their children and on an on-going basis with their key person.
* Key persons regularly share information about the children’s levels of appetite and enjoyment of food with parents.
* Staff refer to the Eat Better, Start Better (Action for Children 2017).
* The cook maintains a record of children’s dietary needs in a Food Allergy and Dietary Needs folder.

**Packed lunches**

Where children have packed lunches, staff promote healthy eating, ensuring that parents are given advice and information about what is appropriate content for a child’s lunch box. Parents are also advised to take measures to ensure children’s lunch box contents remain cool i.e. ice packs, as the setting may not have facilities for refrigerated storage.

Food safety and nutrition procedures

# 03.5 Meeting dietary requirements

Snack and mealtimes are an important part of the day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. We aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children’s individual dietary needs and preferences.

* Staff discuss and record children’s dietary needs, allergies and any ethnic or cultural food preferences with their parents.
* If a child has a known food allergy, procedure 04.4 Allergies and food intolerance is followed.
* Staff record information about each child’s dietary needs in the individual child’s registration form; parents sign the form to signify that it is correct.
* Up-to-date information about individual children’s dietary needs is recorded in the snack book so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed.
* Staff ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and cultural or ethnic preferences, as well as their parent’s wishes.
* The menus of meal and snacks are displayed on the parent notice board for parents to view. Foods that contain any food allergens are identified.
* Staff aim to include food diets from children’s cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones.
* Through on-going discussion with parents and research reading by staff, staff obtain information about the dietary rules of the religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, as well as about food allergies. Staff take account of this information when providing food and drink.
* Staff provide a vegetarian alternative when meat and fish are offered and make every effort to ensure Halal meat or Kosher food is available to children who require it.
* Where it is not possible to source and provide Halal meat or Kosher food, a vegetarian option is available; this will be discussed and agreed with parents at the time of the child’s registration.
* All staff show sensitivity in providing for children’s diets, allergies and cultural or ethnic food preferences. A child’s diet or allergy is never used as a label for the child, they are not made to feel ‘singled out’ because of their diet, allergy or cultural/ethnic food preferences.
* Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day. Staff inform children how to obtain the drinking water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
* Meal and snack times are organised as social occasions.

**Fussy/faddy eating**

* Children who are showing signs of ‘fussy or faddy eating’ are not forced to eat anything they do not want to.
* Staff recognise the signs that a child has had enough and remove uneaten food without comment.
* Children are not made to stay at the table after others have left if they refuse to eat certain items of food.
* Staff work in partnership with parents to support them with children who are showing signs of ‘faddy or fussy eating’ and sign post them to further advice, for example, How to Manage Simple Faddy Eating in Toddlers (Infant & Toddler Forum) <https://infantandtoddlerforum.org/health-and-childcare-professionals/factsheets/>