

ALLERGY POLICY

Purpose of the policy

All staff at Ramas Daycare work closely with families to support children with allergies or intolerances.

This policy sets out how Ramas Daycare will meet the needs of any child with an allergy or special dietary requirement. We aim for all children with allergies to take a full and active part in nursery life by the careful monitoring of materials and substances used in play and food, and by making necessary adjustments to activities and meals.

Ramas Daycare also takes staff allergies/intolerances seriously and will do all they can to ensure staff do not come into contact with activities and foods that may affect them.

Who is responsible?

It is the responsibility of all staff at Ramas Daycare to ensure they know and understand children's and Staff's allergies and intolerances.

It is the management's responsibility to attain information from the parents or staff member with the allergy and complete a care plan with the information on their allergy/intolerance.

In the case of a child, parents are responsible for notifying nursery management if there are any changes to their child's allergies/intolerance. In the case of a staff member, it is the staff member's responsibility for notifying nursery management if there are any changes to their allergies/intolerance.

How we support the inclusion of children with allergies

We seek information from parents or staff member, and they fill out a care plan, which informs us about any known allergies. This is to clarify what the allergy is, what this means for the person with the allergy, what are the signs of a reaction, what procedures the setting needs to follow if an allergic reaction occurs, what steps need to be taken to avoid contact with identified causes of an allergic reaction.

The care plan is filled with accurate information about the allergy and inform all Nursery Practitioners in which they read and sign. A care plan record is kept in each room for staff to refer to at any time. The nursery regularly checks and updates the allergy chart which is displayed in each room as well as the kitchen.

The nursery cook checks all foods, materials and products for substances known to cause a reaction as well as the staff when they use products for activities. Staff make substitutes where possible known allergy.

Management provides regular updates and training for all practitioners, in particular Key Persons, Room Leaders, Senco and Nursery Cook with any known allergies and intolerances.

Food

Staff are very aware of the importance of respecting individual requirements without making children feel awkward or embarrassed; where children must be given something different it is done without fuss, but our preference is all children to eat the same food as far as possible.

Individual requests are listed within each child's personal file and learning journey, on dietary information boards within the rooms for all practitioners and students to view and in the kitchen for the cook to access daily. Special diets are respected and catered for, in consultation with parents.

The nursery will provide alternatives food for children with different requirements, and plates are colour coded e.g., red for children with allergies. Should parents or carers wish to bring in cakes or other treats to celebrate a child's birthday or other special occasion, we ask that any homemade birthday cakes, biscuits, etc. are brought into nursery in a sealed container with a list of ingredients and the date they were made, and shop-bought cakes are in their original box.

Administering of medication due to allergies

Staff at Ramas Daycare will always revert to the care plan of the person with the allergy to identify the triggers, and the emergency procedures in the case of an allergic reaction. If a person is suffering from a "flare up" of an allergy, staff will follow the emergency procedure.

If medication is to be administered, a senior first aid practitioner will administer the medication and ensure there is someone to witness the administration of medicine. Staff will notify parents as soon as possible and complete an administration of medicine form.

Once the parent/carer arrives, they will read and sign to acknowledge the medication and dosage that was administered. If emergency services are needed or the person with the allergy needs medical assistance, a senior member of staff will travel with them to seek medical attention, and a member of staff at the nursery will inform the parent/carer/ emergency contact.

It should be noted down what triggered the person's allergy, and any evidence to be taken with them such as food packets with the ingredients labelled.