



**EYFS Statutory Requirements – page 28 section 3.47**

**EYFS Key Themes and Commitments**

<u>A Unique Child</u>	<u>Positive Relationships</u>	<u>Enabling Environments</u>	<u>Learning and Development</u>
1.1 Child Development 1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as partners 2.4 Key person	3.4 The wider context	4.4 Areas of learning and development

**Policy statement**

At Warwick Community Playschool, we regard snack times as an important part of our day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults, and helps children to learn about healthy eating. We promote healthy eating using a variety of resources and materials. At snack times, we aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs.

**Named Representative for Healthy Eating**

Ciara Rugg

**Procedures**

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

- ☀ Before a child starts to attend the setting, we ask their parents about their dietary needs and preferences, including any allergies. (See the Managing Children who are Sick, Infectious or with Allergies Policy.)
- ☀ We record information about each child's dietary needs in the Registration Form and parents sign the form 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 updated record to signify that it is correct.
- ☀ We display current information about individual children's dietary needs so that all our 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 provide nutritious food for all snacks, avoiding large quantities of saturated fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- ☀ We include a variety of foods from the four main food groups:
  - meat, fish and protein alternatives;
  - dairy foods;
  - grains, cereals and starch vegetables; and
  - fruit and vegetables.
- ☀ We include foods from the diet of each of the children's cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones.
- ☀ We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and we are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts.
- ☀ Through discussion with parents and research reading, we 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. 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 and make every effort to ensure Halal meat or Kosher food is available for children who require it.
- ☀ We show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. We 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 snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and adults participate.
- ☀ We use 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.
- ☀ In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
- ☀ For young children who drink milk, we provide whole pasteurised milk. Although we slowly introduce semi-skimmed milk from the age of two years.
- ☀ We teach the children about healthy eating through play as well as building in hygiene and health into routines.

- ☀ We support education about healthy eating through growing our own fruit and vegetables and providing cooking/food preparation activities.

### *Packed lunches*

Where we cannot provide cooked meals and children are required to bring packed lunches, we:

- ☀ ensure perishable contents of packed lunches are refrigerated or contain an ice pack to keep food cool;
- ☀ inform parents of our policy on healthy eating;
- ☀ encourage parents to provide sandwiches with a healthy filling, fruit, and milk based deserts, such as yoghurt or crème fraîche, where we can only provide cold food from home. We discourage sweet drinks and can provide children with water or diluted fresh fruit juice;
- ☀ discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, sweet drinks and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits. We reserve the right to return this food to the parent as a last resort;
- ☀ ensure that adults sit with children to eat their lunch so that the mealtime is a social occasion.

### **Legal framework**

- Regulation (EC) 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs.

### **Further guidance**

- Safer Food, Better Business (Food Standards Agency 2011)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of: Warwick Community Association

Reviewed on: May 2017

This policy will be reviewed annually in June.

This policy will be reviewed annually, with changes made as required. The manager of the setting will be responsible for maintaining this and sharing with the committee members of Warwick Community Association to be verified. This will be shown in the minutes of the meeting.