



Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

At Clapham & Clapham Park Montessori we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction.

We aim to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented and that staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

We ensure that:

- Children's food is prepared and provided in line with their individual needs, developmental stage and any agreed care or allergy plans
- Staff understand and consistently apply arrangements for managing allergies, food intolerances and dietary requirements.

Our procedures

- All staff are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth and/or tongue, swelling of the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis. Staff are trained in appropriate treatments for allergies and anaphylaxis. Staff understand the differences between allergies and intolerances and that children can develop allergies at any time, especially during the introduction of solid foods
- Before a child is admitted to the nursery we obtain information about special dietary requirements, preferences, allergies and intolerances that the child has. Parents record these on the child's enrolment form
- We have ongoing discussions with parents and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop allergy plans for managing any known allergies and intolerances. We ask parents to inform staff of any allergies or intolerances discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff involved in the preparing and handling of food, including at mealtimes and snack times, and keep an allergy list in a suitable location (e.g. in the snack area if it relates to a food allergy)
- Where a child has a known allergy, the manager will discuss it (and the steps that will need to be taken to minimise any risk and to deal with any possible allergic reaction, noting these down in a written risk assessment) with the parent prior to the child starting the nursery and/or following notification of a known allergy and this assessment is shared with all staff. Please see the Medication Policy for details of documents that are required and further steps that need to be taken for children who have been prescribed adrenaline injections (EpiPens).

- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts
- The manager and parents work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include substituting specific food items that are usually offered for snack
- At each mealtime and snack time we ensure that staff are clear about who is responsible for checking that the food being provided meets all the requirements for each child
- Seating is monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies and, where age/stage appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies with the children and the potential risks
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a paediatric first-aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment, where necessary. We will inform parents and record the information in the Accident Book. We would also add the suspected allergy to the allergy list
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child needing transport to hospital

The manager or staff member will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. Staff will not attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle
- Ensure someone contacts the parent(s) whilst waiting for the ambulance, and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child, taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Re-deploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together or contacting some parents to ask them to collect their children immediately
- Inform one of the proprietors immediately
- Remain calm at all times and continue to comfort and reassure the child experiencing an allergic reaction. Children who witness the incident may well also be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the incident.
- Where a serious incident occurs and a child requires hospital treatment, Ofsted will be informed.

This policy is updated at least annually and/or after a serious incident.

This Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy should be read in conjunction with the Food Policy and the Medication Policy.

Policy reviewed:	Signed on behalf of the nursery:	Date for next review:
September 2026	Ros Bowles and Lucía Gómez-Santana	September 2027