

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, they must be healthy, balanced and nutritious.

6.6 Food hygiene

Policy statement

We provide and/or serve food for children on the following basis:

- Snacks (parental donations).
- Packed lunches (children provide their own packed lunches).
- Cooking activities

We maintain the highest possible food hygiene standards with regard to the purchase, storage, preparation and serving of food.

We are registered as a food provider with the local authority Environmental Health Department. (*West Oxfordshire*)

Procedures

- Our staff with responsibility for food preparation understand the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) as it applies to our setting. This is set out in Safer Food, Better Business for Caterers and Safer Food, Better Business for Childminders (*which groups will also find helpful*). (Food Standards Agency 2011).

The basis for this is risk assessment of the purchase, storage, preparation and serving of food to prevent growth of bacteria and food contamination.

- All our staff follow the guidelines of Safer Food, Better Business.
- All our staff who are involved in the preparation and handling of food have received training in food hygiene.
- Staff will always wash their hands under running water before handling food and after using the toilet.
- Staff will not be involved with the preparation of food if suffering from any infectious/contagious illness or skin trouble.
- Staff will never smoke in the kitchen or any room storing food.
- Staff will never cough or sneeze over food.
- Staff will use different cleaning cloths for kitchen and toilet areas.
- Staff will prepare raw and cooked foods in separate areas.
- Food will be kept covered and either refrigerated or piping hot.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables will be thoroughly washed before use.

- Any food or drink that requires heating will be heated immediately prior to serving and not left standing. No food or drink will be reheated.
- Tea towels and cleaning cloths will be kept scrupulously clean and washed between each session.
- Cracked or chipped china will not be used.
- The refrigerator should be defrosted and cleaned regularly. The fridge temperature is checked weekly and the thermostat regulated accordingly
- The cooker and microwave should also be kept clean after use.
- The person responsible for food preparation and serving carries out daily opening and closing checks on the kitchen to ensure standards are met consistently. (See Safer Food, Better Business)
- We use reliable suppliers for the food we purchase.
- Food is stored at correct temperatures and is checked to ensure it is in-date and not subject to contamination by pests, rodents or mould. 'Use by dates' are checked regularly and food rotated accordingly. Any out of date food will not be served.
- Packed lunches are stored in a cool place; un-refrigerated food is served to children within 4 hours of preparation at home.
- Food preparation areas are cleaned before and after use.
- There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing-up.
- All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
- All utensils, crockery etc. are clean and stored appropriately.
- Waste food is disposed of daily into the kitchen dustbin. A lid will be kept on the dustbin and staff will wash their hands after using it.
- Cleaning materials and other dangerous materials are stored out of children's reach.
- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- When children take part in cooking activities, they:
 - are supervised at all times;
 - understand the importance of hand-washing and simple hygiene rules;
 - are kept away from hot surfaces and hot water; and
 - do not have unsupervised access to electrical equipment, such as blenders etc.

Reporting of food poisoning

Food poisoning can occur for a number of reasons; not all cases of sickness or diarrhoea are as a result of food poisoning and not all cases of sickness or diarrhoea are reportable.

- Where children and/or adults have been diagnosed by a GP or hospital doctor to be suffering from food poisoning and where it seems possible that the source of the outbreak is within our setting, the supervisor will contact the Environmental Health Department to report the outbreak and will comply with any investigation.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable of any confirmed cases of food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises, and always within 14 days of the incident.

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)