



Playhouse Pre-school

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Statement of intent

Playhouse Pre-School recognises that some children, including babies and young children, may have allergies that can cause a serious or potentially life-threatening reaction known as anaphylaxis. We are committed to providing an inclusive environment for children with allergies and will take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens and ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to respond to an allergic reaction.

Playhouse Pre-School cannot guarantee a completely allergen-free environment. Our approach is to:

- identify known allergies before a child starts attending;
- work closely with parents/carers and, where appropriate, health professionals;
- complete appropriate risk assessments and individual healthcare plans;
- minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens;
- ensure emergency medication is available and accessible when required;
- ensure relevant staff understand the child's individual needs and emergency procedures; and
- respond promptly and appropriately to suspected anaphylaxis.

Playhouse Pre-School operates a no food-sharing policy. Children are not permitted to share food with other children.

Allergies and Registration

The Early Years Foundation Stage requires providers to obtain information about children's dietary requirements, including allergies and food intolerances. Parents/carers are asked to provide full and accurate information about their child's allergies and medical needs as part of the registration process and to inform the setting immediately of any changes.

Information provided should include:

- the allergen(s);
- the type of reaction the child experiences;
- the symptoms to look out for;
- any known triggers;
- treatment required;
- emergency medication prescribed;
- instructions for administering emergency medication;
- actions to be taken in an emergency; and
- current emergency contact details.

A child with a known allergy that could result in anaphylaxis will have an appropriate individual healthcare plan/care plan and risk assessment in place before or as soon as reasonably practicable after starting, depending on the circumstances.

What is Anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can develop rapidly.

Signs and symptoms can include:

- swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue or throat;
- difficulty breathing, wheezing or noisy breathing;
- difficulty swallowing or speaking;
- a sudden change in voice;
- widespread rash, hives or flushing;
- vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhoea;
- dizziness, collapse or loss of consciousness;
- becoming unusually pale, floppy or unresponsive.

In babies and younger children, symptoms may be less obvious. Staff will therefore be familiar with the individual child's symptoms and emergency plan. Anaphylaxis can occur following exposure to a range of allergens, including foods, insect stings, medicines and other substances.

Individual Healthcare Plans and Risk Assessments

Where a child is at risk of anaphylaxis, Playhouse Pre-School will work with parents/carers and, where appropriate, health professionals to establish an individual healthcare plan.

The plan will include:

- the child's allergy/allergen;
- known symptoms and signs of an allergic reaction;
- emergency treatment required;
- the location of emergency medication;
- instructions for administering medication;
- emergency contact details;
- any specific preventative measures;
- arrangements for activities, outings and food-related activities; and
- any other information necessary to keep the child safe.

A risk assessment will identify reasonable measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of exposure to the child's known allergen.

The healthcare plan and risk assessment will be reviewed regularly and whenever there is a change to the child's medical needs or treatment.

Avoiding Allergens

Playhouse Pre-School will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of children being exposed to known allergens.

These measures may include:

- following the child's individual healthcare plan;

- ensuring staff are aware of the child's allergy;
- encouraging effective hand washing;
- cleaning tables and surfaces appropriately;
- preventing children from sharing food;
- checking food provided by the setting;
- discussing food brought from home with parents/carers where necessary;
- providing suitable alternatives for food-related activities; and
- taking appropriate precautions during outings and trips.

We recognise that it may not be possible to eliminate every risk of accidental exposure. Staff will therefore focus on both prevention and ensuring that emergency medication and procedures are readily available.

Food and Snacks

Parents/carers are responsible for informing Playhouse Pre-School of any food allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements. Food provided by the setting will be checked carefully in relation to the allergies and dietary requirements of children currently attending. Where food is brought from home, parents/carers remain responsible for ensuring that it is suitable for their child. The setting may ask parents/carers for additional information about ingredients where necessary. Children must not share food.

Staff will follow appropriate food hygiene procedures and encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating. Where a child has a serious food allergy, staff will discuss suitable arrangements with the child's parents/carers before food-related activities, cooking activities or special events.

Emergency Medication

Where a child has been prescribed emergency medication, such as an adrenaline auto-injector, parents/carers must provide the medication to the setting in accordance with the setting's medication procedures.

Medication must:

- be in date;
- be clearly labelled with the child's name;
- be stored safely but be readily accessible to staff;
- be accompanied by appropriate instructions and consent; and
- be available whenever the child is attending the setting, including outings where appropriate.

A child who has been prescribed life-saving emergency medication will not normally be able to attend unless the required medication is available, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed following an appropriate risk assessment.

Relevant staff will know where emergency medication is stored and how to access it quickly.

Staff Training and Awareness

All relevant staff will be made aware of the individual needs of children with allergies and the procedures to follow in an emergency. Where a child has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector, appropriate staff will receive information and/or training on its use. Training will be refreshed when necessary and when a child's individual treatment or emergency procedure changes. The setting will ensure that staff know which children have allergies, what symptoms to look for, where emergency medication is stored and what action to take.

Responsibilities of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers must:

- provide accurate and up-to-date information about their child's allergy;
- provide any required medication and equipment;
- ensure medication is in date and clearly labelled;
- provide updated medication when required;
- inform the setting immediately of any changes to the child's condition or treatment;
- provide current emergency contact details; and
- work with the setting to develop and review the child's individual healthcare plan.

Parents/carers should discuss with staff any food, cooking or other activities that may present a risk to their child.

Responsibilities of Staff

Staff must:

- familiarise themselves with this policy;
- know which children have allergies;
- understand the individual healthcare plan for children in their care;
- follow agreed risk-reduction measures;
- ensure emergency medication is accessible;
- follow the child's emergency procedure if an allergic reaction occurs;
- record the administration of medication;
- inform parents/carers following an emergency or administration of medication; and
- report and record any significant incident in accordance with the setting's procedures.

Action in the Event of a Suspected Anaphylactic Reaction

If a child shows signs of anaphylaxis:

1. Follow the child's individual healthcare plan immediately.
2. Administer the child's adrenaline auto-injector without delay where it is prescribed and indicated by the child's emergency plan/training.
3. Call 999 and state that the child is suffering from anaphylaxis.
4. Keep the child with a member of staff and monitor them closely.

5. If symptoms do not improve or return and the child's healthcare plan/training indicates that a second adrenaline auto-injector should be given, administer it as directed.
6. Contact the child's parents/carers as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Ensure a member of staff accompanies the child if they are taken to hospital, where parents/carers are not already present.
8. Record the incident and medication administered in accordance with the setting's medication and incident recording procedures.

Staff will not delay emergency treatment while waiting for parents/carers to arrive.

Outings and Trips

Children who require emergency allergy medication will have their medication available when attending outings and trips.

Staff accompanying the child will know:

- which child requires the medication;
- where the medication is stored;
- how to access it;
- what symptoms to look for; and
- what action to take in an emergency.

The child's healthcare plan and relevant emergency information will be available to staff as appropriate.

Visitors and Other Families

Playhouse Pre-School will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of known allergens being brought into the setting. Parents/carers will be reminded that food must not be shared between children. Where specific restrictions are necessary because of a child's serious allergy, these will be communicated clearly to families and visitors.

This policy was agreed by the staff of Playhouse Pre-School Broadwater.

Adopted on 26th March 2015 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed on 16th September 2026 by Z. Munford