

## Allergies

At Shofar we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aims are 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.

### **Our procedures**

- Our 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 or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- On entry to the nursery, parents must state any allergies, reaction and treatment on the registration form. We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy register on the wall of each classroom and also in our administrator's office.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher in conjunction with the parent will devise a Medical Health Care Plan, which must be signed by the child's medical practitioner prior to the child starting the nursery. This will be shared with all staff
- Food for children with allergies will be prepared separately to avoid risk of contamination
- The management, nursery meal provider and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current nursery menu
- Seating will be 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 and the potential risks with the children.
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a 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 incident book and on the allergy register

### **Transporting children to hospital procedures**

The nursery staff member must inform the Head teacher or a member of the senior management team immediately who will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parents and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff will accompany the child to hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

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Next review date September 2020



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