**Allergies & Intolerances Policy**

**Purpose of Policy**

At Rainbow Nursery 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.

**Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are aware of all children will allergies and intolerance and make every effort to prevent allergic reactions from taking place. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure they are providing the nursery with the most up-to-date information regarding their child’s allergies/intolerances in order to allow us to provide the best possible care and support with this. The nursery management team will ensure that the Allergy Register is updated at least monthly, to ensure that staff have the relevant information.

**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.

We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on their child’s enrolment form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration. Parents will be required to complete an Allergy Action Plan and Medication Form if required.

All information regarding allergies and intolerances are kept on an Allergy Register and will be displayed in the each of the playrooms, the office and in the kitchen.

The manager, nursery cook 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. 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.

Children with an allergy or intolerance will be served using a red plate, to easily identify these children. Where appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks.

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 using an accident form. If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child.

For staff/volunteers/students with severe allergies and intolerances, the same process will be applied, whereby necessary preventative measures will be implemented and a procedure for reaction will be documented.

**Date Completed: October 2023**

**Review Date: October 2024**

*This policy will be monitored in line with relevant legislation and good practice guidelines*