



Earith Pre-School 7
School Road
Earith, Cambs PE28 3QB
01487 841478
earithpreschool7@aol.co.uk

Food and drink

Policy statement

We regard snack and meal times as an important part of our day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults, and helps children to learn about healthy eating. At snack and meal times, we aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs.

Procedures

We follow these procedures to promote healthy eating in our setting.

- Before a child starts to attend the setting, we ask their parents/carers about their dietary needs and preferences, including any allergies. (See the Managing Children who are Sick, Infectious or with Allergies Policy.)
- We record information about each child's dietary needs in the Registration Form and parents/carers sign the form to signify that it is correct.
- We regularly consult with parents/carers to ensure that our records of their children's dietary needs – including any allergies - are up-to-date. Parents/carers sign the updated record to signify that it is correct.
- We display current information about individual children's dietary needs so that all our staff and volunteers are fully informed about them.
- We implement systems to ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and preferences, as well as their parents/carers wishes.
- We provide nutritious food for all snacks, avoiding large quantities of saturated fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- We include a variety of fruit and vegetables
- We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and we are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts.
- Through discussion with parents/carers and research reading, we obtain information about the dietary rules of the religious groups to which children and their parents/carers belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, as well as about food allergies. We take account of this information in the provision of food and drinks.
- We show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. We do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child, or make a child feel singled out because of their diet or allergy.
- We organise snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and adults participate.
- We use snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink and feeding themselves.

Registered Charity Number: 297688



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- We provide children with utensils that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and that take account of the eating practices in their cultures.
- We have fresh drinking water constantly available for the children. We inform the children about how to obtain the water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
- We inform parents/carers who provide food for their children about the storage facilities available in our setting.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.

Packed lunches

When children bring in a packed lunch, we

- Encourage parents/carers to add an ice pack to keep food cool;
- inform parents/carers of our policy on healthy eating;
- encourage parents/carers to provide sandwiches with a healthy filling, fruit, and milk based desserts, such as yoghurt or crème fraîche. We discourage sweet drinks and can provide children with water;
- discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, sweet drinks and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits. We reserve the right to return this food to the parent/carer as a last resort;
- provide children bringing packed lunches with plates, cups and cutlery; and
- ensure that adults sit with children to eat their lunch so that the mealtime is a social occasion.

Legal framework

- Regulation (EC) 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs.

Further guidance

- Safer Food, Better Business (Food Standards Agency 2011) – Updated January 2022
- Nutritional Guidance for the Under Fives (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)
- The Early Years Essential Cookbook (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)
- Healthy and Active Lifestyles for the Early Years (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2012)



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Policy/procedure Review date	September 2025
Next review due on	September 2026
Signature on behalf of provider	
Name of signatory	Deborah Young
Role of signatory	Chair person of committee