

27. Nutrition and meal times

England: EYFS

3.45 - 3.47

Mealtimes should be a happy, social occasion for children and staff alike. Positive interactions should be shared at these times and enjoyed. Little Acorns Day Nursery is committed to offering children healthy, nutritious and balanced meals and snacks which meet individual needs and requirements.

We will ensure that:

- A balanced and healthy breakfast, midday meal, tea and a daily snack are provided for children attending a full day at the nursery
- Menus are planned in advance, rotated regularly and reflect cultural diversity and variation. These are displayed for children and parents to view
- We provide nutritious food at all snack and meal times, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings
- Menus include servings of fresh fruit and vegetables every day
- Parents and children are consulted in menu planning
- Fresh drinking water is constantly available and accessible. It is frequently offered to children and babies and intake is monitored
- Individual dietary requirements are respected. We gather information from parents regarding their children's dietary needs including any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies that a child has and any special health requirements before a child is admitted to the nursery. Where appropriate we will carry out a risk assessment in the case of allergies and work alongside parents to put into place an individual dietary plan for their child
- Staff show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. They do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child, or make a child feel singled out because of her/his diet or allergy
- Staff set a good example with the children and sit with them at mealtimes to demonstrate good table manners. Meal and snack times are organised so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate in small groups.

During meals and snack times children are encouraged to use their manners and say 'please' and 'thank you' and conversation is encouraged

- Staff use meal and snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink, and feeding themselves. Staff support children to make healthy choices and understand the need for healthy eating
- We provide foods from the diet of each of the children's cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones. Cultural differences in eating habits are respected
- Any child who shows signs of distress at being faced with a meal he/she does not like will have his/her food removed without any fuss. If a child does not finish his/her first course, he/she will still be given a small helping of dessert. Children not on special diets are encouraged to eat a small piece of everything
- Children who refuse to eat at the mealtime are offered food later in the day
- Children are given time to eat at their own pace and not rushed
- Quantities offered take account of the ages of the children being catered for
- We promote positive attitudes to healthy eating through play opportunities and discussions
- The nursery provides parents with daily written records of feeding routines for all children in the Baby Room
- No child is ever left alone when eating/drinking to minimise the risk of choking
- All staff that prepare and handle food are competent to do so and receive training in food hygiene.

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date disseminated to staff	Date for review
04/02/2014	Michele Glide	4/2/2015	4/2/2016
4/2/2016	Michele Glide	4/2/2016	4/2/2017
4/2/2017	Michele Glide	4/2/2017	4/2/2018
4/2/2018	Sharon Duell	06/09/2018	06/09/2019
17/02/2021	Sharon Duell	17/02/2021	17/02/2022