

Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

ABA Pathways we are aware that children/young people may have or develop an allergy that may result in an allergic reaction.

We aim to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented and that staff are fully aware of how to support a child/young person who may be having an allergic reaction.

Our procedures

- All 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/young person. 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 child/young person's registration form/terms and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy register in **[insert location]**
- Where a child/young person has a known allergy, the directors will carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent prior to the child /young person starting with ABA Pathways and/or following notification of a known allergy and this assessment is shared with all staff. This may involve displaying photos of the children/young people along with their known allergies in the kitchen/outbuilding, where applicable
- ***All food prepared for a child/young person 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***
- The directors and parents work together to ensure a child/young person with specific food allergies receives no food that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals
- Seating is monitored for children/young people with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children/young people who have allergies and where appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies with the children/young people and the potential risks
- If a child/young person has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a paediatric 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
- ***If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child/young person and a director will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.***

Food Information Regulations 2014

We incorporate additional procedures in line with the Food Information Regulations 2014 (FIR) including displaying our weekly menus on the Parent Information Board/website/online system identifying any of the 14 allergens that are used as ingredients in any of our dishes.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child/young person needing transporting to hospital, the director/staff member will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. Staff will not attempt to transport the sick child/young person in their own vehicle
- Ensure someone contacts the parent(s) whilst waiting for the ambulance, and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child/young person, taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child/young person's comforter
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children/young people. This may mean temporarily grouping the children/young people together
- Inform a director immediately
- Remain calm at all times and continue to comfort and reassure the child/young person experiencing an allergic reaction. Children/young people who witness the incident may also be well affected by it and may need lots of reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the incident.

Quality Assurance

ABA Pathways will ensure that systems are in place to monitor the implementation of and compliance with this policy and accompanying procedures.

The directors will ensure action is taken to swiftly remedy any identified weaknesses within its procedures.

Policy Dates

This policy was written and takes effect January 2023. This policy is updated at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a serious incident.

Anna Colgate
Director | RBT