



Peek-A-Boo Nursery & Learning Centre

Brown's Field Youth & Community Centre

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Nutrition and Mealtimes

At Peek-A-Boo Nursery we believe that mealtimes should be happy, social occasions for children

and staff alike. We promote shared, enjoyable positive interactions at these times.

We are 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, midday meal, tea and two daily snacks are provided for children attending a full day at the nursery

- We provide nutritious food at all snack times, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar, salt and artificial additives, preservatives and coloring's.

- Parents are to provide pack lunches for mealtime with an ice-pack to keep food cool and fresh.

- Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible. It is frequently offered to children and intake is monitored. In hot weather staff will encourage children to drink more water to keep them hydrated

- 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 starts or joins 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

- We give careful consideration to seating to avoid cross contamination of food from child to child. Where appropriate an adult will sit with children during meals to ensure safety and minimise risks. Where appropriate, age/stage discussions will also take place with all children about allergies and potential risks to make them aware of the dangers of sharing certain foods

- 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 and eat with the children and show 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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 aged 3 to 5 years old.

- No child is ever left alone when eating/drinking to minimise the risk of choking