

First Steps (Bath)

Healthy Eating, Active Lifestyle and Hygiene Policy

Policy statement

At First Steps (Bath) we believe it is essential to provide children with positive healthy eating and active lifestyle experiences in order to promote their wellbeing this is woven into our pedagogy. We welcome breastfeeding at our centres, and we respect the different dietary, cultural and health needs of all our children. Relating to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) we encourage children to have food preferences while helping to understand why some choices are healthier than others. We believe that human health and wellbeing is linked to the environment. That adults have a responsibility to ensure that children have access to nature and opportunities to explore the natural world. We encourage children to be active citizens and embed ideas of sustainability in appropriate ways.

Implementation of the policy in our setting

A senior member of staff is responsible for overseeing all aspects of food and hygiene...

- All staff, students and volunteers are given an induction, which includes reference to this and other policies and procedures
- All staff, students and volunteers are made fully aware of individual children's dietary needs and requirements; and are shown the allergies/dietary list in rooms.
- All staff who are involved in food preparation or food related activities have current food hygiene training.
- Parents are given records of what their child has eaten each day.

Availability of water / milk

- We have fresh drinking water and suitable cups readily available for all children and staff at all times.
- We encourage the children to help themselves to water, either with support or independently.
- We support the children in recognising that they need to drink water when they are thirsty, hot or tired, or feeling unwell.
- The milk provided for the children with morning and afternoon snacks is whole milk for 1 to 2 year olds and semi-skimmed for 2 to 5 year olds

Meals

- A multi-cultural diet is offered to ensure that children from all backgrounds encounter familiar tastes and that the children also have the opportunity to try unfamiliar foods.
- Meals are blended or chopped as appropriate for younger children and in line with parent or carer requests.
- All meals and snacks provided are nutritious, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar, salt, additives, preservatives and colourings and meet school standards.
- Menus provide the children with a healthy balanced diet. They are displayed on our web site for parents / carers to note what their children will be eating.
- We aim to offer at least five portions of fruit and/or vegetables throughout the day.
- Menus are planned to meet all dietary requirements.
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- If parents wish to provide a packed lunch for their child instead, they are asked not to include fizzy drinks, sweets and nuts of any sort. Parents are asked to provide a

nutritious, balanced lunch. However, we allow for the individual sensory needs of children, where appropriate.

- Children are supervised whilst they are eating to help prevent choking and to detect signs of choking so rapid action can be taken when needed.

Promoting Healthy Eating

We will support parents and carers to provide healthy lifestyles for their children by:-

- Supporting safe and responsive feeding and the appropriate introduction of solid foods.
- Promoting a range of healthy eating courses
- Model healthy eating in all activities and groups
- Provision of displays and information leaflets
- Provision of healthy meal recipe cards
- Support parents to prepare a healthy lunch box
- Work with other agencies to promote healthy lifestyles.

Special dietary needs and food allergies

- The children's medical, cultural and personal dietary requirements are respected and adhered to.
- All allergies and intolerances to foods and/or drinks are noted using a health care plan completed with the parent (including medical reports) and added to the room allergy records.
- We use sensitivity in catering for children with specific dietary needs and aim to increase their understanding of foods which are potentially unsafe for them.
- We update records of children's specific dietary requirements and keep these in a prominent place within the play rooms and kitchens.
- Parents are asked to provide medical reports and/or allergy flow charts to support a written health care plan.

Routines/Social aspects

- We plan snack and meal times as a regular, pleasant and social event.
- We sit with children at their tables and encourage them to talk and listen to each other, learning to respect each other's views and opinions, likes and dislikes, etc.
- We encourage the children to take it in turns, share and be polite.
- We encourage common courtesies such as saying 'please' and 'thank you'.
- We encourage independence, whilst acknowledging their individual needs and abilities, at meal and snack times.

Promoting children's hygiene

- We ensure that all children have wiped their faces and washed their hands effectively.
- Posters in the bathrooms remind children about hand washing and toilet flushing.
- We regularly check all children's noses, encourage them to wipe their own noses, and provide tissue stations in the playrooms with stocks of tissues near bins.
- We ensure that outdoor toys and equipment are cleaned regularly.
- We encourage the children to put toys away after each play session in our gardens.
- We offer opportunities for children to learn about health and self-care e.g. cleaning teeth & washing hands.

Storage of food (refer to risk assessment appendix)

- All foods are stored safely and hygienically and at regulated temperatures, in storage cupboards, fridges and freezers as appropriate.

- Food that needs to be kept chilled is put on the appropriate shelf in the fridge.
- Food is always eaten (or disposed of) by its use by date.
- Packed Lunches are stored in appropriate insulated containers however if this is not possible for any reason parents who provide a packed lunch for their child are asked to include an ice pack.

Sleep

If required, children are able to have a sleep during the day. Each child has an individual cot or sleep mat, with clean linen provided daily. Sleep mats and mattresses are regularly disinfected. At least one member of staff stays with the children until they are asleep (with the exception of children in cots). All sleeping children are monitored through visual checks at least every 10 minutes also where necessary an electrical baby monitor will be used where appropriate. Children are only to be put to sleep in an appropriate cot, coracle or on a flat mat. Bouncers and prams will only be used with the consent of parents/ carers and after other strategies have been proven ineffective. If a child falls asleep in a rocker or push chair they are to be moved to a cot, coracle or flat mat at the earliest time possible.

Babies and children under two

First Steps staff support health visitors to ensure that pregnant women are given the correct information and support they need to make an informed choice of how to feed their baby, and we take active steps to promote responsive feeding as the normal and healthy way to feed a baby. In particular we strive to make our centres a welcoming place for breastfeeding mothers, and take steps not to promote formula milks, following the guide for health workers for working within the international code of marketing of breastmilk Substitutes. .

To meet specific needs of babies and children under two in our care:

- We label and store individual bottles and baby foods hygienically and appropriately.
- If parents provide formula milk, we provide sterilised bottles and boiled water and make up these bottles on site as needed throughout the day.
- We encourage babies and toddlers to eat independently in a way that is appropriate for their stage of development.
- The key person can give information & support to provide breast milk, which is stored safely.

Physical Activity

- We provide a stimulating environment with accessible resources that challenge & support all children to be physically active throughout the day.
- We provide a variety of high quality physically active play opportunities led by skilled practitioners.
- Children are given opportunities to access outdoor spaces in the local area.
- Active travel to nursery is promoted, with regular promotion of road safety messages.
- We promote sun safety and ask parents for permission to use sun cream.

There is a smoke free environment across all sites

References

- We follow the requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for the EYFS as published by the Department for Education.
- [Example menus for early years settings in England: part 1 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome \(SIDS\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

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