

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, they must be healthy, balanced and nutritious.

6.6 Food hygiene

Policy statement

[We/I] provide and/or serve food for children on the following basis (delete which does not apply):

- Snacks.
- Meals.
- Packed lunches.

[We/I] maintain the highest possible food hygiene standards with regard to the purchase, storage, preparation and serving of food.

[We are/I am] registered as a food provider with the local authority Environmental Health Department. (*Local authorities will advise on whether individual providers are required to register.*)

Procedures

- [Our staff with responsibility for food preparation/I] understand the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) as it applies to [our/my] setting. This is set out in Safer Food, Better Business [for Caterers (*for groups*)/for Childminders (*which groups will also find helpful*)] (Food Standards Agency 2011). The basis for this is risk assessment of the purchase, storage, preparation and serving of food to prevent growth of bacteria and food contamination.
 - [All our staff/I] follow the guidelines of Safer Food, Better Business.
 - [For group provision: All our staff who are involved in the preparation and handling of food have received training in food hygiene.]
 - [The person responsible for food preparation and serving carries/I carry] out daily opening and closing checks on the kitchen to ensure standards are met consistently. (See Safer Food, Better Business)
 - [We/I] use reliable suppliers for the food [we/I] purchase.
 - Food is stored at correct temperatures and is checked to ensure it is in-date and not subject to contamination by pests, rodents or mould.
 - Packed lunches are stored in a cool place; un-refrigerated food is served to children within 4 hours of preparation at home.
 - Food preparation areas are cleaned before and after use.
 - There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing-up.
 - All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
 - All utensils, crockery etc. are clean and stored appropriately.
 - Waste food is disposed of daily.

- Cleaning materials and other dangerous materials are stored out of children's reach.
- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- When children take part in cooking activities, they:
 - are supervised at all times;
 - understand the importance of hand-washing and simple hygiene rules;
 - are kept away from hot surfaces and hot water; and
 - do not have unsupervised access to electrical equipment, such as blenders etc.

Reporting of food poisoning

Food poisoning can occur for a number of reasons; not all cases of sickness or diarrhoea are as a result of food poisoning and not all cases of sickness or diarrhoea are reportable.

- Where children and/or adults have been diagnosed by a GP or hospital doctor to be suffering from food poisoning and where it seems possible that the source of the outbreak is within [our/my] setting, [the manager/I] will contact the Environmental Health Department to report the outbreak and will comply with any investigation.
- [We/I] notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable of any confirmed cases of food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises, and always within 14 days of the incident.

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)

This policy was adopted by	name of setting
On	_____ (date)
Date to be reviewed	_____ (date)
Signed on behalf of the provider	_____
Name of signatory	_____
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	_____