



Orchard Day Nursery
Queens Park Road
Brighton
BN2 0GL

Nutrition and mealtimes policy

Mealtimes should be a happy, social occasion for children and staff alike. Positive interactions should be shared at these times and enjoyed. Orchard 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, lunch, tea and two daily snacks are provided for children attending a full day at the nursery.
- We provide nutritious food at all snack and mealtimes, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- Fresh drinking water is constantly available and accessible. Children have their own pictured bottle. 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 and can 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 meal 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 visual or written record of feeding routines for all children.
- No child is ever left alone when eating/drinking to minimise the risk of choking.
- All staff will receive training as part of their induction on the safe preparation and handling of food. We also have staff with relevant food hygiene training.