



58. Nutrition and Mealtimes

EYFS: 3.47 – 3.49

At Step By Step Montessori Ltd we believe that snack time 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 snacks which meet individual needs and requirements.

We will ensure that:

- Menus are planned in advance, rotated regularly and reflect cultural diversity and variation. These are displayed for children and parents to view
- We provide nutritious food at all snack and meal times, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar, salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings
- Menus include at least 3 servings of fresh fruit and vegetables per day
- Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible. It is frequently offered to children and babies 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
- 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 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
- Children are given time to eat snack at their own pace and not rushed
- We promote positive attitudes to healthy eating through play opportunities and discussions
- No child is ever left unsupervised when eating/drinking to minimise the risk of choking
- We **do not** allow parents to bring in cakes on special occasions. We only allow fruit/vegetables. We ensure that all food brought in from parents meets the above and health and safety requirements and ingredients that are listed within the Food Information for Consumers (FIR) 2014 and detailed in the allergens policy and procedure



- All staff who prepare and handle food are competent to do so and receive training in food hygiene which is updated every three years
- In the very unlikely event of any food poisoning affecting two or more children on the premises, whether or not this may arise from food offered at the nursery, we will inform Ofsted as soon as reasonably practical and in all cases within 14 days. We will also inform the relevant health agencies and follow any advice given.

Covid-19

We are committed to offering children healthy, nutritious and balanced meals and snacks which meet individual needs and requirements, and we will continue to follow this policy. However, due to high demand for delivery slots and some issues with supply, there may be some changes to the set menus on offer. We will communicate any changes to you.

Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible, and we will ensure that cups are cleaned after each use and not shared.

Meal times may be staggered to allow for smaller groups of children to eat at any one time, this may mean that your child will eat slightly earlier/later than usual. Again any changes will be communicated to you in the usual way. Children will be supervised at all times when eating/drinking, to ensure that they do not share cup/utensils or food.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>January 2021</i>	<i>Khadijeh Naji</i>	<i>January 2022</i>