



GREENFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

FOOD PLAY POLICY

GREENFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

FOOD PLAY POLICY

Purpose

To provide safe, inclusive, and educational food play experiences while protecting children from harm related to allergies, intolerances, choking hazards, and hygiene risks.

Legal & Regulatory Framework

This setting adheres to:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Hygiene Regulations
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Natasha's Law (UK Food Information Regulations 2019)
- Millie's Mark criteria for allergy management

Allergies & Intolerances

- Up-to-date allergy and intolerance records are maintained for all children.
- A full risk assessment is completed before any food play activity.
- High-risk allergens (e.g. nuts, sesame) are avoided unless explicitly approved and safely managed.
- Individual healthcare plans are followed at all times.
- All staff are trained in allergy awareness and the use of emergency medication (e.g. auto-injectors).
- Cross-contamination is prevented through strict handwashing, cleaning, and separation of materials.

Food Safety & Hygiene

- Only fresh, safe, and in-date food items are used.
- Food is stored, prepared, and disposed of in line with food hygiene standards.

- Children and staff wash hands before and after activities.
- Surfaces and equipment are cleaned before and after use.

Choking Hazard Prevention

- Foods used are appropriate for 3-4-year-olds (e.g. no whole grapes, hard sweets, or large chunks).
- Items are cut into safe sizes (e.g. grapes/berries halved lengthways).
- Children are supervised at all times during food play.
- Staff are trained in paediatric first aid, including choking response (Millie's Mark requirement).

Supervision & Safety

- Food play is always directly supervised by trained staff.
- Staff remain vigilant to children placing non-safe items in their mouths.
- Clear boundaries are set to distinguish between tasting and playing.

Inclusion & Communication

- Activities are adapted to ensure all children can participate safely.
- Parents/carers are informed of planned food play activities where relevant.
- Alternative materials are provided where food use poses a risk.

Use of Food in Play

- Food is used thoughtfully and not in a way that promotes waste or disrespect.
- Where possible, non-food alternatives (e.g. playdough) are considered.
- Any food used is disposed of safely and not re-served.

Review

This policy is reviewed every three years or following any incident, update in legislation, or allergy guidance.

Version	Date	Comment
V1	Date created: 1/5/2026 Review date: May 2029	H Gilchrist