



Provision of Food Policy

At The Redbrick Day Nursery, we aim to ensure that all children receive nutritious, safe, and appropriate meals while in our care. Parents who wish to provide their child with their own food must adhere to the following policy guidelines to promote health, safety, and inclusivity.

General Guidelines

All provided food will need to be checked by a member of staff before it can come onto the premises, so please be aware that this may delay your drop off.

1. **Healthy and Nutritious:** Parents must provide food that supports a balanced diet and is suitable for their child's age and stage of development.
2. **Traffic light labelling system.** We will not accept any food that has a red symbol on the traffic like system for food labelling. This system helps indicate high levels of fat, saturated fat, sugar or salt. To support our healthy eating policy foods marked with red in any of these categories are not permitted in children's packed meals
3. **Packaging and Allergen Safety:** All food provided **must be shop bought, unopened, and in its original packaging** so that allergen information can be clearly checked by staff.
4. **Choking Hazards:** Food must be cut into age-appropriate sizes to minimize choking risks. Grapes are not permitted even if cut up.
5. **Airborne Allergies:** Children with packed meals will sit at a designated table with other children who have also brought their own food to reduce airborne allergen exposure.
6. **Restricted Items:** Parents must not send in **chocolate, crisps, or any other unhealthy snacks** as part of their child's packed food.
7. **Nut-Free Policy:** As part of our allergy management plan, **no nuts or nut-based products** should be included in packed meals.

Breakfast Provision

- If breakfast provided by the nursery requires milk, **only cow's milk** will be supplied.
- If a child requires an alternative milk or milk substitute, **parents must provide this daily.**



Food Preparation and Storage

1. **No Refrigeration:** We are **unable to refrigerate** any food provided by parents. Therefore, parents must include **ice packs** in their child's lunch box to keep food at a safe temperature.
2. **No Heating:** We are **unable to heat** any food provided by parents.
3. **Ready-to-Eat Format:** All meals and snacks must be sent in a **ready-to-eat format**, suitable for the child's age.
4. **Utensils & Containers:**
 - The nursery **will not wash or clean** any containers or lunchboxes.
 - The nursery **will not provide** utensils; parents must include necessary cutlery in their child's lunchbox.

Liability & Responsibility

- The nursery **accepts no responsibility** for the quality, safety, or temperature of the food provided by parents.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that the food remains fresh and suitable for consumption throughout the day.
- **Failure to Provide Food:** If parents fail to provide suitable pre-packed food for the day:
 - They will be required to either **collect their child and take them off the premises** while food is sourced, or
 - The nursery will **supply food and invoice the parent** at the **non-booked rate of £20 for a full day and £15 for a half day**, as opposed to the pre-booked or all-inclusive rate.

Additional Considerations

- **Food Sharing:** Children are **not permitted** to share food to prevent cross-contamination and allergic reactions.
- **Healthy Drinks:** Only water or milk is permitted; no fizzy drinks, fruit juice, or flavoured milk.
- **Monitoring & Compliance:** Nursery staff reserve the right to discuss concerns with parents if food provided does not comply with these guidelines.

By following this policy, we aim to create a safe and inclusive dining environment for all children. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting the health and well-being of our nursery community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of staff.



All-Inclusive Meal Package

We offer an all-inclusive meal package where all meals are provided by our **on-site chef**. These meals are **nutritionally balanced, cooked fresh daily**, and cater to a variety of dietary needs. We can also **supply alternatives to cow's milk** for children who require them. This package offers **great value for money** and ensures that children receive well-prepared, healthy meals without the need for parents to supply food from home.

Children attending school will typically be receiving **hot meals** as part of their daily routine. Our nursery meals follow a similar structure to help children feel comfortable and confident when transitioning to school settings.

Mealtime Experience and Child Development

Mealtimes are important to children's development. The food they eat at mealtime gives the vitamins, minerals, and protein they need to grow and stay healthy. It gives them energy and makes them feel good. Eating habits and attitudes learned in childhood can last a lifetime.

We aim to make eating enjoyable and to create a complete dining experience that appeals to the children and encourages them to appreciate the food. Children are encouraged to make a positive contribution by helping to lay the table with placemats, plates, cups, and cutlery. Children also learn important **self-serve skills**, which are essential for building independence and preparing them for the routines and expectations of school.

Children can also contribute by creating their own centrepieces or laying the table with flowers.

Our mealtime routines are designed to encourage children's self-help, independence, and choice. Equipment used must be appropriate to the age and stage of development and designed to promote children's independence.

The opportunity for personal, social and emotional skills to be developed and the opportunities to provide dialogue to support language and communication skills is very valuable.

Policy review: Annually