

93. Food Play

EYFS: 3.65

At Ridgemount Cottage Nursery School we ensure any food we use for play with the children is carefully supervised. Food for play is a powerful tool to encourage children to try new things. They learn about foods textures, smells, feels, different forms. These experiences make it more likely that children will try new foods and experience with trying the same food in various formats. We will also use the following procedures to ensure children are kept safe:

- Choking hazards are checked and avoided
- We will not use whole jelly cubes for play. If we do use jelly to enhance our play, then all jelly will be prepared with water as per the instructions and then used
- Small objects such as dried pasta and pulses will only be used for older children and under supervision. **If pasta is used in play for babies this must be cooked.**
- All allergies and intolerances will be checked and activities will be adapted to suit all children's needs so no child is excluded. Kiwi and nuts will never be used.
- All activities including food will be included on the planning sheets showing all allergens so all staff and parents are aware of the ingredients
- Children's allergies will be visible to staff when placing out food play activities to ensure all needs are met
- Any cooking activities will be checked prior to start to ensure all children are able use all the ingredients based on their individual needs
- We will not use food in play unless it enhances the opportunities children are receiving from the activity. We are aware of the fact some children live in hardship and food is a luxury to their families so we make a conscious effort to only utilise food in play when it enhances learning opportunities such as experiencing real life food for the role play of the shop. Many of the food will be reused in other activities, such as playing with the let over fruit and vegetables left over from the role play area for activities such as printing and painting and dry materials will be reused.
- No salt, coco power or sugar will be used in play.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>November 2024</i>	<i>N Hendry</i>	<i>November 2025</i>