



Lilliput Lane Nursery

The Little Nursery for Little Learners

Nutrition and Meal Times

Scotland: NCS 3.4

Mealtimes should be a happy, social occasion for children and staff alike. Positive interactions should be shared at these times and enjoyed. Lilliput Lane 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 varied healthy breakfast, midday meal, and two daily snacks are provided for children attending a full day at the nursery.
- Menus will be planned in advance, rotated regularly and reflect cultural diversity and variation. These will be displayed for children and parents to view. Nursery recipes will be available on request.
- We provide nutritious food at all snack and meal times, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- Menus will include at least five servings of fresh fruit and vegetables per day.
- Parents and children will be involved in menu planning.
- Fresh drinking water or milk will be constantly available and frequently offered to children and babies. Diluted fresh fruit juice will served at lunch time only.
- Individual dietary requirements will be respected. We will gather information from parents regarding their children's dietary needs including any allergies. 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. A photograph of any child with special dietary requirements or allergy will be displayed in the food preparation area to ensure that permanent and supply staff are aware of each individual child's needs.
- Staff will show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. They would 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 will set a good example and eat with the children and show good table manners.
- Meal and snack times will be organised so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate in small groups. During meals and snack times children will be encouraged to use their manners and say 'please' and 'thank you' and conversation will be encouraged.



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- Staff will use meal and snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink, and feeding themselves. Staff will 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 will be 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 will be encouraged to eat a small piece of everything.
- Children who refuse to eat at the mealtime will be offered food later in the day.
- Parents/Carers will be advised if their child is not eating well.
- Children will be encouraged to develop good eating skills and table manners and will be given time to eat at their own pace and not rushed.
- Quantities offered will take account of the ages of the children being catered for and children will be allowed to have second helpings if they wish.
- We will promote positive attitudes to healthy eating through play opportunities and discussions.
- The nursery will provide parents with daily written records of feeding routines for all children.
- No child is ever left alone when eating/drinking to ensure that there is no risk of choking.



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| This policy was adopted on | | Date of next review |
| 06 August 2013 | | 06 August 2014 |