



Feeding Policy for Under 2's

Please note: for the purposes of this document, where reference is made to 'children,' we are mostly referring to babies and toddlers aged less than 24 months old.

Introduction

Codicote Pre-School understands the unique requirements of children under the age of 24 months old. It is for this reason that we have written this policy so that all members of staff working with under 2's are clear on the expectations placed upon them in supporting our youngest children. The policy is also designed to inform parents of how we manage the needs of the under 2's in our care. The reason for this policy is to ensure that Codicote Pre-School works in collaboration with parents to achieve the best outcomes for their children.

All relevant members of staff involved in the preparation of food and drinks have completed Level 2 Food Hygiene Training. They follow the guidance as set out in the Food Standards Agency's [guidance leaflet](#) on feeding babies and young children.

Fluids

To promote good dental hygiene, we do not offer any of the children in our care anything other than milk or water to drink. The only exception to this rule would be if a child has SEND and is unable to tolerate milk or water due to their additional needs.

Children in the Baby Room drink from either a bottle, sippy cup or ordinary cup, according to their age and stage of development.

Milk

Parents prepare their individual baby's formula at home in a bottle and Pre-School keep those bottles in the fridge until the child requires a feed. The bottle will then be heated to 70°C by being placed in hot water.



Expressed breast milk will be kept refrigerated until the child requires a feed. The bottle will then be heated to 70°C by being placed in hot water.

*Bottles of formula will **not** be heated in a microwave due to the risk of scalding.*

If a child is unable to use standard formula due to a medical need, then Pre-School staff will make up fresh bottles of milk of prescribed formula supplied by the parent(s).

Solids

We work with parents to support the babies in our care with weaning appropriate to the age and stage of the child.

For children consuming shop-bought baby food, we follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to prepare and serve it with the limited facilities we have available at the Parish Centre.

Codicote Pre-School follows The Food Standards Agency's guidance on reheating food as set out in their [leaflet](#). This includes:

- If we reheat food in the microwave, we follow the product manufacturer's instructions, including advice on standing and stirring.
- If we use a microwave to reheat food that has been cooked by parents, we follow their instructions for reheating and ensure that the food is stirred while reheating.
- Staff understand that reheating means cooking again, not just warming up.
- We reheat food until it is steaming hot all the way through and only reheating the food once.

All food heated on the premises is checked so that it is served at the correct temperature according to The Food Standards Agency's [guidance](#). This includes:

- Ensuring that food is cooked until it has reached 70°C for at least 2 minutes.
- Checking the temperature of the food using a clean probe.
- Serving the food straight away after cooking.

Heated food is checked before serving to ensure that it's not too hot for the children.



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