

Nut Free Policy



Due to many severe nut allergies, Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn has adopted a Nut Free Policy. The center DOES NOT serve Peanut Butter, nut products or products that “may be” produced in a nut factory or on equipment that may also process nut products.

Children who are allergic to nuts may be in danger of an allergic reaction without ingestion, meaning it is possible that they have a reaction when nut aromas are airborne. The center will not accept Hawaiian Tropic brand sunscreen or nut scented lotions, as they contain nut oils.

Outside Foods

When a child has a food allergy or restriction, it is documented on our Diet Restriction Form and distributed to each classroom every time it is updated. Due to the overwhelming amount of food allergies and responsibility to keep each child safe, we have policies on outside foods that must be adhered to. They are as follows:

1. Every staff member, including our kitchen staff must be aware of the current diet restrictions and/or food substitutions that must be made for each child to ensure that each child is appropriately served.
2. We do not allow home made goods in the center, in response to the NYS Department of Health Guidelines.
3. Store bought foods brought into the center must be packaged with an ingredient list. **CHECK LABELS!** If something is “Processed on the same equipment that processes nuts/nut products”, we will not serve it!
4. All foods from home must be eaten or thrown away outside the center, before entering the building. Our staff members bring their lunches to the staff lounge, but are not permitted to eat in their classrooms. This includes breakfast items such as bagels, fruit, Ziploc baggies of cereal, milk/juice; regardless of whether or not we serve the same item. It is not fair for one person to have food from home, when everyone else does not. If a child arrives before breakfast and is hungry, we will serve them something from our Breakfast Bag (Nutrigrain Bar, Fig Newton, Cereal, Graham Crackers).
5. When a teacher is not aware that food from home is in their classroom, all of the children are at risk for allergic reactions or choking hazards. Children are sometimes inclined to share, however, they are not aware of allergy restrictions. We have also had children leave their food on a classroom surface and walk away, leaving it available to another child.
6. Most importantly, we are promising those families who have children with allergies that their child will not be exposed to the food items in which they are restricted (nut products or products that were produced in a nut facility; soy, wheat, whey, preservatives, dairy...) therefore, we must all be diligent and work together to ensure the safety of each and every child.

Food For Celebrations

We love to celebrate at Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn and find many reasons to have parties throughout the year! Parents may provide a special treat for their child's celebration. Unfortunately, balloons and candles are not permitted. Parents must check with center staff to see if there are any allergy restrictions in their child's class. Over the years, we have had parents:

- Donate money for their child's party! Our Preschool and Kindergarten classes then “shop” at Waldbaum's for special treats!
- Purchase Cake Mix, Icing or Brownie Mix (we'll supply the extra ingredients) so the children can bake your child's birthday treat in the classroom!
- Have pizza delivered to the classroom for a special lunch treat or bring in ice cream and all the fixings for sundaes or fresh fruit—always a favorite!
- Donate a Hard Cover Book or Game in honor of your child's birthday for the classroom!
- Goody bags prepared and tied closed so that the children do not have access to the contents. They will be sent home by center staff. Parents have included Pencils, Pads, Stickers, Bubbles and/or Novelty Games in goody bags, in lieu of candy! Most chocolate candies “May contain peanuts” or “May be manufactured on the same equipment that processes nuts (peanuts, almonds, tree nuts...)” and should be avoided!

We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Child's Name _____ Parent Signature _____ Date _____