# Nut Free and Severe Allergy Policy

*This policy is to be read in conjunction with:*
HS05 Food and Drink;
ME02 Allergen Management

**Purpose**
We know that the food our children eat affects every aspect of their lives; their mood, behaviour, growth and their ability to concentrate. Hopscotch understands that good nutrition is vital to a child's health and development and so all our nurseries have a dedicated nursery cook who is fully trained and experienced in providing the high standard of food we expect.

Hopscotch Day Nurseries is a nut free environment. This means no food products containing nuts are brought into the buildings. We hope this will reduce the risk of any child or adult with a nut allergy coming into contact with a food product which could potentially be very harmful to them.

We realise that many foods are labelled as having 'traces of nuts' or 'cannot guarantee nut free' which are very difficult to avoid. We will speak to parents of any children who join the setting who have a nut allergy to establish the severity of the allergy and put in place a risk assessment which is reviewed annually.

In order to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction for a child in our care we will:

- All children and staff with allergies will have red cards made and displayed recording the allergy and action to be taken in an emergency should a reaction occur
- Making sure the cooking ingredients do not include nuts
- Informing all new parents of this policy
- Remind families periodically
- Staff will be told not to bring food containing nuts into the nurseries

We ask parents:
- When parents bring in food to share (such as a birthday cake on their child's birthday) it must not be eaten on site, however the children can take the food home for the parents to give at their discretion with a copy of the ingredients
- Should a child come into contact with a food that they cannot have, appropriate medical action would be taken immediately, and a full investigation would take place
- It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that no food stuffs or confectionary is brought into nursery where other children can access it, i.e. bags and coat pockets left in the rooms or corridors
- To further minimise risk and protect those children with the most severe nut allergy as much as possible, we will ask parents to wash their children's hands and wipe faces before coming into nursery if they have had a nut based breakfast or snack at home

We also have children that have other severe allergies and we reserve the right to ask parents to adhere to the above in relation to other allergies.