28. MEETING DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Snack and mealtimes are an important part of the day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. We aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs and preferences.

- Staff discuss and record children's dietary needs, allergies, and any ethnic or cultural food preferences with their parents/carers. A child's special dietary requirements are recorded on registration to ASK, and information is shared with all staff. This continues as an ongoing dialogue with all parents throughout their time at ASK.
- If a child has a known food allergy, procedure 26. Allergies & Food Intolerance is followed.
- Information about each child's dietary needs is recorded in the individual child's registration form; parents/carers sign the form to signify that it is correct.
- Up-to-date information about individual children's dietary needs is displayed so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed.
- Staff ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and cultural or ethnic preferences, as well as their parent/carer's wishes. At each mealtime, a member of staff is responsible for checking that the food provided meets the dietary requirements for each child.
- Foods that contain any food allergens are identified.
- Through on-going discussion with parents/carers and research by staff, staff obtain information about the dietary rules of religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, as well as food allergies.
- All staff show sensitivity in providing for children's diets, allergies, and cultural or ethnic food preferences. A child's diet or allergy is never used as a label for the child, they are not made to feel 'singled out' because of their diet, allergy, or cultural/ethnic food preferences.
- Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day. Staff inform children how to obtain the drinking water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
- Meal and snack times are organised as social occasions.

Fussy/faddy eating

- Children who are showing signs of 'strong food preferences, or aversions to food' are not forced to eat anything they do not want to.

- Staff recognise the signs that a child has had enough and remove uneaten food without comment.
- Children are not made to stay at the table after others have left if they refuse to eat certain items of food.
- Staff work in partnership with parents/carers to support them with children who are showing signs of ‘food preference or aversion’ and sign post them to further advice.

This policy was adopted by:	ASK Kindergarten & Clubs
On:	May 08, 2026
Date to be reviewed:	May 08, 2027
Signatory:	Mark Stewart
Role of Signatory:	Owner & Ofsted Registered Provider