**Kidsize Healthy Eating Policy**

**Our Aim at Kidsize**

We aim to provide a healthy well balanced diet for your children. We are supporting your children to develop life-long healthy eating practices and a positive approach towards food, nutrition and physical activity. All of our staff are Food Hygiene certified in catering.

**Nutrition**

At Kidsize Playgroup we provide healthy, freshly prepared snacks to all children each day. Snacks are well balanced and we provide a variety of foods for your children to enjoy. Snacks at Kidsize will contain food from the main food groups.

Examples of snacks may include (but not limited to):

Crackers and cheese

A selection of fruits and vegetables.

We also have the option to attend over lunch time. A variety of both hot and cold meals for lunch will be provided over the week. Lunch and snack menus are developed in line with Setting the Table: <https://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/30341-Setting%20the%20Table.pdf>

Food Matters: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/3241/food-matters-nurturing-happy-healthy-children.pdf>

and Healthy Eating in Schools Guidance (2020): hQps://www.gov.scot/publications/healthy-eating-schools-guidance-2020/?

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We like to do baking and cooking with the children every so often. We also like to include children in the preparation and serving of snack - for example cutting their own fruit and vegetables.

Drinks provided include water (both snack and lunch) and milk (snack only). Fresh water is available for the children all throughout the session should they require another drink out with snack time. (Water is the most tooth friendly drink and therefore provided with every snack).

Children are encouraged to make their own choices, drink and feed themselves to develop each child’s independence. Opportunities are given to children to explore and experience a wide variety and range of healthy food products through involving them in our menu planning at Kidsize.

At Kidsize we are a **NUT-FREE** environment. If your child chooses to take in their own snack it must contain **NO nuts** - this includes peanut butter, Nutella and pesto.

**Cooking as an Activity**

At Kidsize we like to try to involve children with cooking as it promotes healthy eating and teaches children skills that are essential to their development. When cooking we ensure all children wash their hands before helping with the cooking, and wear aprons if required. We use child safe plastic cutting knives and chopping boards so that children can cut fruit and vegetables independently without risk of getting injured. Before cooking staff have a conversation with the children about the risks and safety measures to be taken, during this conversation we encourage children to participate and identify the risks independently where possible. Staff ensure children maintain a suitable distance from the hob and pan and oven when cooking to ensure there are no risks of children getting burnt. Examples of food we may cook with the children at Kidsize include pasta, stir fry, mini pizzas etc.

**Safety Checks**

Fridge temperature checks are recorded daily to ensure food is being stored correctly - the fridge temperature should ideally be between 3°C - 5°C but definitely should not exceed 6°C. During cooking food is temperature checked to ensure the core temperature exceeds 75°C whilst cooking. This kills off any potential germs, these checks are recorded on a cooking record. All cooking equipment will be thoroughly cleaned before and after use. Where food deliveries contain raw meat, the temperature of the food when delivered will be recorded to ensure it is being kept at a safe temperature.

**Allergies**

Kidsize is a peanut and nut free club. Please do not send any snacks containing peanuts or nuts, with your child to Kidsize. Kidsize will also cater to any dietary requirements that your child has that are stated in their enrolment forms. Prior knowledge of this will allow staff to provide a variety of snacks for your child at the club.

**Special Occasions**

Birthdays and other special occasions must always focus on the sense of occasion rather than sweet treats. Food is never given as a reward at Kidsize. Birthday cakes and bakes *are* accepted at the club, as long as they are taken in a **shop bought sealed box** with **ingredients** clearly labelled. Baked goods must contain no confectionery in/on them as per the Healthy Eating in Schools Guideline. The nutritional values will be checked by staff before serving to ensure it is in line with guidance. **We do not accept foods that contain nuts.**

**Physical Activity**

At Kidsize we aim to be outdoors as much as possible, this includes activities such as walking, running, climbing, sliding and making up simple games. The benefits of outdoor play include improved ability to adapt to changes in temperature, increased energy, opportunities for sensory motor learning and gives children direct contact with nature and living things. We also like to play in the gym hall when available to encourage physical play and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

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