

# TAYLORED SCIENCE Food and Edible Items Policy

Reviewed August 2024 – Andrea Taylor

Next Review August 2025

Taylor Science takes the health, safety and well-being of children in our care and the adults connected to our business seriously.

To help keep everyone safe we:

- expect parents to tell us about their child's medical needs, including allergies so that we remain vigilant and so that appropriate arrangements can be made
- ensure that the adult leading each session has a First Aid Certificate
- would not usually provide food for children to eat and never use products which contain nuts
- remind children that, when substances appear to be edible, they should not be eaten/drunk e.g. when using substances such as jelly or cola in our investigations
- will request that a separate permission slip be completed if an investigation should require the children to taste a substance.

## Snacks

Parents/Carers must provide all food and drink to be consumed by their child whilst they are in the care of Taylor Science. We would not usually provide food or drinks for children other than tap water. To protect children who may have a serious nut allergy, all food brought to sessions should be completely nut-free. Any food that is not nut-free will be removed and returned to the parent/carer at the end of the session. If an item needs to be taken from a child, the conversation which takes place will be sensitive and kind, ensuring that the child does not feel uncomfortable or worry that they have done something wrong. Children should not share food which they bring to sessions as this could cause an allergic reaction. Children will be gently reminded of this and never made to feel that generosity is wrong; just not possible in certain circumstances.

## Resources, Art Media and Other Substances

All resources, media and other substances are non-toxic and safe for use by children. Where edible items are used e.g. orange juice, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, jelly, the children will be reminded that they should not put these items in their mouths as they may not be safe e.g. not in a clean container or past their use by date. It may be necessary to remind some children that they should never put anything into their mouths during activity sessions unless they have been told that it is part of the task.

## Action in the Event of an Incident

Should a child consume a substance which they should not have, appropriate action will be taken through our First Aid Policy e.g. administering of antihistamine (provided by the parent) or an epipen (allergic reaction) or abdominal thrusts (choking). We will call for an ambulance if required (always, if an epipen has been administered).

If the child is not in danger e.g. has consumed a small amount of non-toxic paint or a nut-free biscuit from another child, we will assess whether a parent needs to be informed based on the risk to the child.