

Food Policy at Bedford Park:

- We do not allow foods that contain nuts to be brought to school.
- We do not share food. This includes situations involving students sharing their snacks or lunches as well as parents bringing in food to celebrate various events (eg . birthday cakes, cupcakes etc).

There are two main reasons for not sharing food. The first is that all parents have the right, whether based on a food allergy, based on religious values or simply based on family values/decisions to approve or disapprove the foods their children are offered while they are at school. The second is anaphylaxis. There are several children in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or any other food can cause this dangerous condition.

Allergic reactions to the above can be triggered by **ingestion** or from **contact**. Risks can be significantly reduced through effective management strategies and emergency procedures. Although the greatest responsibility lies with the individuals with food allergies and with the school administration, awareness and support from others in a community can help create safer environments for those at risk. You and your child can make a big difference by following these risk-reducing habits:

- Washing hands and faces with soap and water or wet wipes after eating (NOTE: Hand sanitizers do not remove allergens)
- Brushing teeth after eating (when possible).
- Eating only their own food

Curriculum Note – When teachers plan an activity that is tied to the curriculum and involves food preparation we have an internal process that addresses specific safety concerns and ensures that every parent is aware of the activity, processes, ingredients etc.

These rules apply to all of us at Bedford Park....teachers, students, parents and community visitors. If a parent wants to send in a small gift for each of a child's classmates to recognize their birthday they need to contact the child's teacher and ensure that the gift isn't a food product (eg. bookmark, pencil, sticker etc)