



As a parent of a child with food allergies I have really appreciated that care and concern that Baker has given. They make our family feel safe through well thought out policy and procedure and a staff that is consistent in the way those policies are implemented day-to-day. We have not experienced this level of care at all the organizations my child's been involved with. This peace of mind is one of many reasons Baker is our clear school choice.

-Kate, Parent of Primary Student

FAST FACTS

1. Baker is a nut free school.
2. Snacks in preschool only.
3. Non-Food Celebrations are emphasized.
4. All staff receive training on severe allergies and the use of an epinephrine device.
5. Students are guided by the nurse and teachers to take ownership of their severe allergy when it's appropriate to do so developmentally.
6. Baker has a full-time nurse during the academic year.
7. Baker faculty and staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.
8. Set of EpiPens available in building and also for field trips.
9. Baker has a food allergy parent group and a food allergy preschool playgroup (these met pre-COVID).
10. Students eat safely in an inclusive manner at lunch rather than a separate table.
11. Baker is located 0.4 miles from the nearest hospital.

Statement from Baker's Handbook About Supporting Children with Severe Allergies

Baker has a food allergy parent group and a food allergy preschool playgroup. Students also eat safely in an inclusive manner at lunch rather than a separate table. The number of people who have a food allergy is growing but there is no clear reason as to why. Food allergies increased 50% between 1997 and 2011 and affect 1 in every 13 children in the U.S. 8 foods account for 90% of all reactions: milk, egg, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. While some of these allergies can be outgrown, peanut and tree nut allergies tend to be lifelong. There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of food allergens is necessary to avoid a reaction, which can be deadly. Even trace amounts can cause a reaction. No peanuts or tree nuts, or products containing these, are to be brought into the classroom. Please be aware that peanuts and tree nuts can be found in some unlikely places. Therefore, we ask that you get into the habit of reading food labels. Snacksafely.com is a good resource to help assist you in purchasing food products that are safe for children with allergies. While that site's listing is updated frequently, changes do occur in food production, making it necessary to check food labels each and every time. Please note that if a product's label states, "manufactured in a facility that processes

peanuts and tree nuts”, “manufactured on equipment that processes peanuts and tree nuts”, or “may contain peanuts and tree nuts”, this product is potentially unsafe and may not be brought into the classroom.

Teachers at Baker have worked to celebrate birthdays with children during school by creating birthday books, giving shout-outs to the birthday student or otherwise celebrating them rather than having celebrations centered on food. Families who have a child with a food allergy are familiar with the accommodations necessary to keep their child safe. Kids are guided by the nurse and teachers to take ownership of their severe allergy when it's appropriate to do so developmentally. All staff receive training on severe allergies and the use of an epinephrine device. Baker faculty and staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. For assistance with your child's food allergy support plan or general questions regarding the food allergy guidelines, parents are asked to contact the full-time school nurse, Anne Riggs at 847-425-5816 or ariggs@bakerdemschool.org.

Health Emergencies at School

If a serious emergency that requires calling 911 occurs at school, Baker will make every effort to reach the parent/guardian (or emergency contact, if necessary), so that a family member has the opportunity to arrive while EMS is still at the school. If a family member or emergency contact is unable to arrive on time, a Baker staff member will ride in the ambulance with the child and stay with the child in the hospital until the family is able to arrive. Baker is located 0.4 miles from the nearest hospital.

Baker Demonstration School has been a Godsend for our family. We spent years searching for an allergy safe school for our son who has a long list of food and environmental allergies. We even entertained the idea of home-schooling as we began to lose hope. Fortunately, our neighbor suggested we consider Baker.

We met with school staff and immediately felt welcome, not like a burden. The full-time school nurse, entire staff, and parent community all go above and beyond to ensure the safety of students with food allergies in a very inclusive manner. Our son isn't merely sent to a nut-free table in the cafeteria, he sits among his classmates and the cafeteria procedures are centered around maintaining a safe environment for all students. Teachers make sure the art supplies used are allergy safe and that food is not used for birthday celebrations. Our son's peers advocate for him and never make him feel ashamed about his food allergies. We are truly grateful to be at Baker Demonstration School.

-Stacie & Stephanie, Parents of Primary Student