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| **Activity:** | Food Safety for Squirrels (Early Years Advise) | **Location:** | Any setting where food is consumed | **Last review date:** | November 2024 | **Produced by:** | Alex Windows(Section Leader – Scouts) |
| **Next review date:** | December 2025 | **Quality Assured by:** | Sarah Phillips(Section Leader – Squirrels) |

Advise and information taken from Department of Education Early Years Providers Food Safety information - <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/food-safety>

Foundations Years Food safety advice on choking hazards in settings - <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2021/09/food-safety-advice-on-choking-hazards-in-settings/>

| **What are the hazards?** | **What are the risks?** | **Who is most at risk?** | **What control measures will be put in place?** |
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| **Supervision** | Choking | Squirrels under 5 years. | * Ensure that children are adequately supervised, including whilst eating.
* Where possible, young people should be seated while eating.
* Ensure hot food is adequately cooled before being given to Squirrels.
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| **Chocking** | Suffocation | Squirrels under 5 years. | Food preparation methods to reduce the risk of choking:* Remove any stones and pips from fruit before serving
* Cut small round foods, like grapes, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, lengthways and into quarters
* Cut large fruits like melon, and hard fruit or vegetables like raw apple and carrot into slices instead of small chunks
* Soften hard fruit and vegetables (such as carrot and apple) and remove the skins when first given to babies from around 6 months
* Sausages should be avoided due to their high salt content, but if offered to children these should be cut into thin strips rather than chunks and remove the skins
* Remove bones from meat or fish
* Cut cheese into strips rather than chunks
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| **Choking** | Suffocation | Squirrels under 5 years. | Food not to be given to under 5 years:* Do not give whole nuts to children under five years old
* Do not offer raisins as a snack to children under 12 months – although these can be chopped up as part of a meal
* Do not give whole seeds to children under five years old
* Do not give popcorn as a snack
* Do not give children marshmallows or jelly cubes from a packet either to eat or as part of messy play activities as they can get stuck in the throat
* Do not give children hard sweets
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