# Nine-Month-Old Baby Dies After Choking on Pasta at Jelly Beans Day Nursery



An inquest has revealed that a nursery worker at Jelly Beans Day Nursery in Ashford, Kent, was feeding pasta Bolognese to four children simultaneously when one of them, nine-month-old Oliver Steeper, choked and subsequently died in the hospital six days later. The incident occurred in September 2021, just four weeks after Oliver began attending the nursery.

Nursery worker Loetta Collins testified that feeding four babies at once was "not really" common practice. Although she was not the person feeding Oliver when he choked, she had finely chopped his food according to prior discussions with his mother, Zoe Steeper, who had stated she wanted the food "finely chopped" rather than pureed.

On the day of the incident, lunch was delayed due to busyness, and while another staff member fed Oliver, Collins noticed he made a sound as if to cry but did not. Realizing he was choking, Collins, who is trained in first aid, attempted to clear his airway and performed CPR with assistance from the nursery manager. Despite their efforts, Oliver was rushed to the hospital, where brain scans indicated he would not survive. He passed away six days later.

The Jelly Beans Day Nursery has since closed, according to Ofsted. The inquest, held at Oakwood House in Maidstone, is expected to last for two weeks.