



Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

RATIONALE

We ensure to promote and develop learning environments that are safe and supportive for everyone. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions that include nut and egg allergies. This means that exposure at preschool may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing.

Avoidance of specific triggers is the basis of anaphylaxis prevention. Appropriate avoidance measures are critically dependant on education of the child, his/her peers and all preschool personnel. The measures that are appropriate will depend on the nature of the institution, the possible routes of exposure to food allergens and the age of the child.

It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks. As a general principle it is not recommended that children in preschools with a food allergy be physically isolated from other children.

Risk minimisation in preschools may include asking parents of peers to not send nuts or peanut butter on sandwiches or eggs in sandwiches or on their own if a member in early year learning programs (Occasional Care, Kindergarten) has peanut or egg allergy. This is due to the higher risk of person to person contact in younger children. Please check notice board for updated allergy/ anaphylaxis information currently used in our preschool environment.

The risk of a life-threatening anaphylaxis from casual skin contact, may provoke urticarial reactions (hives). Simple hygiene measures such as hand washing, and bench-top washing are considered appropriate.

The preschool acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products and eggs and egg products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as "Nut Awareness".

Parents of a child with an anaphylactic allergy:-

The initial step will be requiring medical information at the time of enrolment of children. This includes the provision of documentation by parents, including an allergy or Anaphylaxis plan.

Anaphylaxis Action Plans are required to be filled out by a registered Medical Practitioner (GP) and will need to include the following:

- Clear identification of the child (photo)
- Documentation of the allergic triggers
- Documentation of the first aid response including any prescribed medication
- Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan

All Parents/Carers:-

- All water bottles, and food for their children will be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Parents of students in a class where there is an identified student with a severe allergic reaction are asked to speak with their child about not sharing food and drink and washing their hands after eating.
- Parents will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.

Children will:

- not trade and share any food, food utensils and food containers.
- only eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home or provided by parents/carers.
- be encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- be supervised by a teacher during eating times.

Educators will:

- Continue to be current with first aid and emergency response to allergies
- Seek qualified professionals such as allergy nurse educators, doctors or qualified first aid trainers and reinforced at yearly intervals.
- be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut and egg allergies.
- Staff will supervise students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- Food preparation personnel will be instructed about measures necessary to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food. Examples would include the careful cleaning of food preparation areas after use and cleaning of utensils when preparing allergenic foods.
- Staff will participate in training to understand procedures related to Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- will complete an individual student health support plan in consultation with the family. This plan will detail site management strategies such as storage of the EpiPen, arrangements for excursions, camps and other food related activities and emergency procedures.

Promotion:

- New families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment package.
- Governing Council being informed and endorsing this policy.
- Educators being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Children being informed via teachers, signs and through the newsletter.

This policy has been endorsed by Governing Council

Chairperson:
Director : Ally Harvey

Signature
Signature