

# Allergy Awareness Policy



Quality Area 2 – Children’s Health and Safety

## Purpose:

Many children suffer from allergies and have allergic reactions which can be triggered by a range of foods or environmental factors. Our aim is to provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Hampstead Preschool Community and to raise awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

## This will be achieved by:

- Staff are trained in first aid including anaphylaxis first aid using prescribed adrenalin via an auto injector
- Staff follow first aid protocol to ensure safe, secure storage and immediate access to a child’s auto injector and other first aid equipment
- Staff follow first aid protocol to encourage safe management while acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies
- Ensuring every child with severe allergy / anaphylaxis has a care plan, health support agreement and a safety and risk management plan.
- Ensuring every adult with anaphylaxis has an agreed worksite approved plan
- Display the prescribed information relating to anaphylaxis
- Staff will Inform all relevant relief and temporary staff at the site as well as staff when the following situations arise
  - Incursions and excursions
  - Special programs such as sports day and visiting presenters
  - Evacuation and invacuation
- Staff will consider exposure to possible food sources during class activities such as craft, where exposure to egg / milk cartons, seeds, eggs etc. may occur
- Staff and children/students understand and apply allergy aware practices i.e. not sharing food, washing hands prior to and after eating, cleaning tables prior to and after eating
- Staff will ensure all families in the Preschool community are regularly informed about ***allergy aware policy and practice*** in education and children’s services

## Families will:

- Provide the preschool with an Allergic Reactions / Anaphylaxis action plan completed by a medical practitioner prior to their child attending preschool
- Not send products containing nuts
- Will only provide a fruit platter to celebrate their child’s birthday if desired.
- Be responsible for providing the care plan and any medication and ensuring that medication provided has a current expiry date
- Ensure the care and support plan is reviewed regularly, (for example at times of parent/family teacher interviews and always at times of transition (home – childcare- preschool – new school)
- Supervise their own child/children during family celebrations

## Management – Allergy Awareness

- The link below provides information about anaphylaxis in a variety of different languages –  
[Anaphylaxis translations - Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy \(ASCI\)](#)
- Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating. Note: some students may require non-soap based washes. ie those with eczema
- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to Preschool that contains nuts or nut products (this includes peanut paste, Nutella, cooking oils with nuts, etc)
- In case of dairy or egg allergies staff will liaise with individual families to determine the severity and what precautions may need to be taken.
- Food is not given as a reward
- Children do not share or swap food, unless under supervision (i.e. special events, as pre arranged and agreed with the family)
- Staff will ensure children are closely supervised at eating times to minimize the risk of children coming in to contact with any nut products. If a child does have nut products, they will be removed and a note sent home to parents advising

them that our Preschool is a “nut free zone”. The child or any member of staff who has handled these will wash their hands.

- Food and nutrition education incorporates education about food allergy and any practical activities are planned with an assumption that some participants have a food related allergy
- Food should not be supplied to children with anaphylaxis unless pre-arranged and agreed with the family. It is assumed any product might have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise.
- Food Preparation follows standard precautions to avoid cross contamination. People preparing food (including volunteers, teachers, canteen helpers) need advice on strategies to ensure that food is not cross contaminated.
- Planning camps and excursions takes into account food supply services, including discussing the full menu with families (including product details)
- Be aware of using food as a fundraiser exercise, e.g. supplying chocolates to all students in the school to sell.

#### **Emergency Response Plan**

- Staff to raise alarm by 1 long whistle to signal a medical emergency
- ECW to stay with child
- Teacher / Director to get EpiPen and child's ACSIA Action Plan
- Teacher / Director to follow the Action Plan and administer EpiPen
- ECW continue to monitor the child
- Teacher to monitor the rest of the children in a safe indoor space
- Director / person in charge to ring for an ambulance (000)
- Director / person in charge to ring family emergency contact

#### **The policy will be promoted by:**

- Parents and caregivers being informed at enrolment interview and regular reminders through the newsletter and notes home
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities. Staff meetings – staff reminded to be vigilant at eating times
- Discussions with Preschool children about the importance of not sharing food with other children and why

**Date Reviewed: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Date Approved: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**