



ALLERGY AWARE POLICY

QUALITY AREA 2 – CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

This policy covers both the **Occasional Care** and **Kindergarten** programs.

Policy Statement

At Klemzig Kindergarten we promote a healthy and safe environment. We promote awareness amongst children and parents/caregivers about allergic reactions suffered by certain children after coming into contact with these products through learning opportunities. This policy is designed to alert parents to the potential severity of ANAPHYLACTIC reactions and provide information on how parents can help prevent such reactions by being aware of which products to avoid. This policy is also aligned to our Medical Conditions Policy.

Information

Many children have allergies and asthma. If exposed, allergic reactions may include hives, swollen eyes, wheezing and asthma symptoms. Some can be life threatening. Ingredients such as PEANUT BUTTER, can be fatal within minutes. Severe reaction to such substances are a health and life risk not only when these products are consumed, but from residue left on toys, play surfaces and other equipment (cross-contamination). Children who are termed ANAPHYLACTIC i.e. suffer from ANAPHYLAXIS, which is a most severe form of an allergic reaction that can result in death. An anaphylactic (or full body shock) can occur within seconds of exposure to an allergen or it may occur as a delayed reaction several hours after exposure. Anaphylaxis is a critical medical emergency that requires immediate treatment with adrenaline by injection to prevent permanent injury or loss of life. (Adrenaline opens up the airways and blood vessels in the body).

Parent/Caregiver responsibilities

- The Kindergarten must be informed of all allergies/anaphylaxis, if any, before enrolment of a child.
- Parents and the medical practitioner of children with allergies/anaphylaxis must fill out appropriate documents which may include HSP120 Health Support Agreement, HSP151 Medication Agreement, HSP121 Safety and Risk Management Agreement, HSP153 Emergency Management Plan and CARE PLAN specific to the child's needs. Parents/caregivers of an allergy/anaphylactic child must make sure the appropriate medication is made available to the Kindergarten to use in the event of an emergency.
- Parents/caregivers of an allergy/anaphylactic child must make sure the appropriate medication (named in child's medication agreement) is made available to the Kindergarten to use in the event of an emergency.
- All medication e.g. Zyrtec, Phenergan, Epipen used for the treatment of allergy/anaphylaxis must be in date and provided by the family, be clearly labelled with child's name and instructions on a pharmacy label, and be stored in a secure location. (All staff must know of its location in the event of an emergency.)
- Any suspicions of allergies the parents/caregivers have noted must be further investigated by a qualified medical practitioner.
- The kindergarten must be notified of any changes to a child's condition that may affect their existing care at the site.
- Families are asked to please "double check" check food labels BEFORE putting into child's lunchbox.
- It is recommended that ALL NUTS should be avoided since most nuts are processed with peanuts and therefore cross contamination may occur. It is also possible to have an allergy to more than one kind of nut.
- All children should be encouraged by their families (and kindergarten staff) not to accept food from anyone other than their own family.
- Families will be made aware to not send food containing nuts of any kind to kindergarten and where appropriate, they will be made aware of allergies/anaphylaxis needs of the kindergarten cohort.
- Families are asked to ensure donated materials (e.g. boxes/plastic containers) are free from possible contamination E.g. by washing thoroughly or shaking out crumbs etc.
- Parents are requested not to send food, including cakes or chocolates for birthdays.
- Parents will be made aware of this site based policy upon enrolment of their child at the Kindergarten

Staff responsibilities

- All children will be encouraged not to share food with each other and to sit down when eating.
- Staff will supervise all children whilst eating.
- Children's food is to be monitored regularly by a staff member in order to assess potential risks and to educate the children on the necessity of eating 'nut free' food at kindergarten.
- In the event that a child brings food containing nuts, the snack will be placed in a safe place by staff and returned to family with an "Allergy Aware Note"
- Staff to ensure medication for allergy/anaphylaxis children to be taken on any excursions out of the centre.
- Staff will ensure any activities provided for the Centre will be nut free (e.g. cooking or seed play).
- Any food not eaten is to be placed back in lunchboxes and bags
- Staff will ensure that any products (e.g. sunscreens) used at the Centre are free from nut products
- From time to time Kindergarten staff will remind parents/caregivers and children about the policy
- All staff will undergo required training in the use of Epipens and managing anaphylaxis.
- Anaphylactic children need to be identified to any relief and volunteer workers and made of aware of their action plans.
- This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with staff and Governing Council parents according to the review cycle.

We ask for your understanding and cooperation by not sending any food with your child containing NUT PRODUCTS.

If staff are informed of anaphylactic reactions to foods other than nuts, an agreement will be formed with the parent to determine if a short term policy restricting other foods is needed to keep children safe.

*Ratified by Governing Council November 2022
to be reviewed annually*