



## ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGY POLICY

Renmark West Preschool is committed to ensuring that children in our care are provided with the best possible care.

This policy is written in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations. The regulations relating to this policy include:

- Regulation 90 – Medical Conditions Policy
- Regulation 91 – Medical Conditions Policy to be provided to parents
- Regulation 94 – Authorisation requirements – Anaphylaxis or Asthma emergency
- Regulation 136 – First Aid Qualification
- Regulation 173 – Prescribed information to be displayed

When children with an allergy or a known anaphylactic reaction to an identified allergen, attend Renmark West Preschool, all possible precautions will be taken to ensure that such children are not exposed to that allergen whilst at the Preschool.

### **The following actions will be taken to minimise risk:**

#### **1. Obtain medical information**

- On enrolment, parents will be required to provide an ASCIA action plan for allergic reaction/anaphylaxis - (Appendix 1), which has been completed by a registered medical practitioner. It will include the following information
  - Clear identification of the child – photo attached.
  - Documentation about the allergic triggers.
  - Documentation about the first aid response including any medication required.
  - Identification and contact details of the registered medical practitioner.
- On enrolment, parents will be asked to sign a consent form that will give the preschool permission to display photo identification of their child, ensuring all staff are aware that a child enrolled at the preschool may suffer an anaphylactic reaction, what their allergen is, and what action should be taken to assist the child in an emergency.
- Enrolling parents will be responsible for providing the action plan and medication and for ensuring that the medication provided has a current expiry date.
- Staff will ensure that the plan is reviewed regularly, and always at the time of transition to school.
- On enrolment all parents whose child has an allergy or is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, will be given a copy of this policy.

#### **2. Education of educators**

- Recognition of the risk and understanding the steps that can be taken to minimise a child's chance of an anaphylactic reaction by all preschool staff, is a vital step in the prevention of a critical incident.
- Preschool staff will be trained in Anaphylaxis Awareness. Certificates will be stored in the 'First Aid and Health Record Folder'.

#### **3. Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers**

- Avoidance of specific allergens is essential to the prevention of an anaphylactic reaction.
- Education of children, staff and parents is critical in this goal.
- Renmark West Preschool is a nut free zone, this information is provided to parents on enrolment - in the new parent pack, and this status is displayed on the parent notice board.



- If a child enrolled at the preschool is at known risk of an anaphylactic reaction, this information will also be displayed on the parent noticeboard.
- For children that have an allergic reaction to other products, when this allergen is identified, it will be removed where possible from the preschool environment. e.g. – egg cartons removed if an enrolled child has an egg allergy.
- When the allergen is environmental, e.g. bee stings, educators will have access to children's medication
- Children with an anaphylactic reaction will not be excluded from any activities that are undertaken within the preschool environment, unless directed by the parent, or unless it will have a known detrimental effect on the child's health.

#### **4. Age appropriate education of children with severe allergies.**

- Renmark West Preschool recognises the importance of parents having the responsibility for teaching children about allergies. The preschool also recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment for children in care, including the education of children about food allergies.

#### **5. Food Policy measures**

- Renmark West Preschool will ensure that the following measures occur:
  - There will be no trading or sharing of food, food utensils or food containers
  - Items for the children's use e.g. – water bottles, cups, lunch boxes etc, will be clearly labelled.
  - The use of food in regard to cooking classes or science experiments will be restricted when a child with a known allergen is present.
  - Food preparation will have measures to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food, when this occurs.

Refer to the Food Safety Policy and Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policy for more information on general safety measures undertaken within the centres environment.

#### **6. Storage of medication**

- Children's medication will be stored in the kitchen and clearly labelled. All staff will be made aware of the location of medication.
- The child's care plan will be stored with the medication.
- Parents will be notified as soon as possible if the emergency medication has been administered to their child.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Council, staff and families of the centre and will be reviewed and evaluated regularly and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for Renmark West Preschool. This policy will be shared with all new staff and families and available in the preschool policies folder.

Policy Issued: May 2013  
Policy Reviewed: May 2015  
Policy Reviewed: April 2017  
Next Review: May 2019



## ***Policy information sourced from***

1. ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in Schools, Preschools and Child care.
2. Education and Care Services National Regulation 2012
3. Allergy and anaphylaxis aware – checklist for Education and Children’s Services.
4. Managing Anaphylaxis in child care settings
5. Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy – [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)