



Valley View Kindergarten Allergy Aware Policy

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Educators at Valley View Kindergarten endeavour to provide an environment that ensures the health and safety of all children, including those with allergies and food sensitivities. We would appreciate that all families help us to keep these children safe by not sending foods that contain nuts, nut products or eggs, as children who are allergic have the potential to react in a life threatening manner and it is our legal duty of care to ensure the safety of every child attending the centre. Please note that other foods may be added at any time depending on the known allergies of children attending this centre.

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction to a substance. While prior exposure to allergens is needed for the development of true anaphylaxis, severe allergic reactions can occur when no documented history exists. We are aware that allergies are very specific to the individual and it is possible to have an allergy to any foreign substance.

The following is a list of foods that are NOT TO BE SENT TO KINDERGARTEN :

- Nuts of any kind
- Nut spreads of any description including Nutella and Peanut Butter
- Muesli bars with ANY nuts or the “May contain traces of nuts” warning
- Eggs or egg products

To minimise the risk of exposure of children to foods that might trigger severe allergy or anaphylaxis in susceptible children, our service will:

- Plan for each child’s safety using the ‘Allergy (and Anaphylaxis) Aware Checklist
- Incorporate food allergy into food and nutrition education, teaching children not to share or swap foods
- Ensure all children with food allergies only eat food and snacks that have been prepared for them at home where possible
- Consider whether it’s necessary to change or restrict the use of food products in craft, science experiments and cooking so children with allergies can participate
- Consult risk minimisation plans and families before making food purchases for cooking with the children
- Follow standard precautions to avoid cross contamination
- Provide routines that encourage children to wash their hands before eating
- Request families to label all bottles, drinks and lunchboxes etc. with their child’s name
- Request all parents not to send food with their children that contain highly allergenic elements even if their child does not have an allergy by, for example, placing a sign in the foyer or near the front door reminding families about this
- If appropriate, seat a child with allergies at a different table if food is being served that he/she is allergic to. This will always be done in a sensitive manner so that the child does not feel excluded
- Closely supervise all children at meal and snack times and ensure food is eaten in specified areas. To minimise risk children will not be permitted to ‘wander around’ the service with food
- Ensure that body lotions, shampoos and creams used on allergic children are approved by their parent or families can provide their own
- Provide families with a note in their child’s lunch box if they have forgotten about our policy and provided foods containing nuts/nut products/eggs

Families are responsible for informing the centre of their child’s known allergies and for providing a Medical Action Plan developed by their medical practitioner and medication. The Director is responsible for ensuring all staff and volunteers are informed, understand and apply allergy aware practices and that all families are regularly informed about allergy aware policy and practice at Valley View Kindergarten