



Padthaway Preschool

Allergy Awareness Policy

Rationale

At Padthaway, we have children enrolled within either the preschool or school with allergic reactions to nuts, within the preschool we implement a **NO NUTS POLICY** to reduce the risk of harm to children and make our preschool a safe environment. Please take the time to read this policy carefully.

This policy promotes awareness about allergic reactions suffered by some children after coming into contact with nut products and alerts parents to the potential severity of **anaphylactic** reactions. Parents can help prevent possible fatal reactions by only sending healthy foods that are **neither whole nuts or nut-based**.

It is the staff, families and community's duty of care to ensure the safety of all children whilst attending preschool; therefore we need to provide an environment that will prevent the risk of exposure to nuts and other allergens. For this reason, the policy must be adhered to at all times within the preschool and school grounds. In the event that accidental exposure may occur, the preschool has an emergency procedure in place. **If food is brought in that is either whole nuts or nut-based it will not be eaten but repacked safely by staff and returned home.**

Information on Allergies

Many children have allergies and if exposed react in the following ways; hives, swollen eyes, wheezing and symptoms of asthma, itching especially around the mouth, swelling tongue, flushed face, cramping and nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and loss of consciousness.

Some reactions are life threatening for children who are severely allergic to foods such as peanut butter, Nutella and bars, biscuits, cakes etc. made with nuts. Even tiny amounts could be fatal within minutes. Children who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a health risk not only when nut products are consumed in their environment but from residue left on fingers, toys and other surfaces; this is called cross contamination. These children are termed '**anaphylactic**' – i.e. suffer from **anaphylaxis**.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of an allergic reaction that can result in death. An anaphylactic reaction (or full body shock) can occur within seconds of consumption or exposure to an allergen, or it may occur as a delayed reaction several hours after the initial exposure.

Anaphylaxis is a critical medical emergency that requires immediate treatment with adrenalin by injection (EpiPen) to prevent permanent injury or loss of life (Adrenalin opens up the airways and blood vessels in the body).

Link to National Quality Standards

- 2.1 Each child's health is promoted.
- 2.1.1 Each child's health needs are supported.
- 2.2 Healthy eating and physical activity are embedded in the program for children.
- 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

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