

Food Allergy Policy- Reynella South Kindergarten

We are a NUT, SOY & SESAME AWARE PRESCHOOL



Purpose:

- To provide a safe learning environment for, and raise awareness of, all Reynella South Kindergarten community members with regard to children and staff with severe food allergies and anaphylactic reactions.

Procedures:

- Documentation of the first aid response and prescribed medication will be provided by the parent and displayed discreetly for staff access by the first aid boxes in the kitchen.
- Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan will be clearly marked.
- The Anaphylaxis Action Plan will be reviewed by a practitioner, and then kindergarten, as required by changes in the child's condition and following advice from the child's parent/s caregivers.
- Parents/carers of all students at Reynella South Kindergarten will be regularly informed and reminded by newsletter, about allergy-inducing foods, when students with severe food allergies are currently enrolled. Children's identity will not be disclosed. All parents/carers will be asked to refrain from sending sandwiches and other foods to preschool containing high levels of nut, soy or sesame products or other allergy-inducing foods.
- In some circumstances a child with allergy-inducing products in their lunch or snacks may be offered an alternative food, rinse out their mouth with water and wash hands/face away from allergic child. The child's parent/carer will be given another copy of this policy and have an informal chat about this with a staff member.
- No nut, soy or sesame products, or other allergy-inducing foods, on special food days e.g. cakes, nor in cooking activities, nor on excursions whilst a child with these food allergies is enrolled at kindergarten.

- Staff to supervise children's eating times
- All children are directed not to share foods
- All children are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating
- Parents/carers to review contents label of food products before packing food to send to kindy. If an actual ingredient is soy, sesame or nut (including coconut) or by-product (e.g. sesame or nut oil, almond meal, etc), or any other allergy-inducing food, that food should not be brought to kindy.
- Staff to complete Anaphylaxis training.
- Staff to be aware of needs of specific students via photographs, medication plans & roll book.
- Staff are in charge of family-supplied Epi-pens & medications.
- Staff are required to take all medications & treatment plans on all excursions.
- Director will obtain specific medical information from the child's family at enrolment, share information with staff and inform Council.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers informed a) verbally at time of enrolment, b) via the Policy Pamphlet distributed to all families and c) with written information via Parent Information Book and newsletters.
- Governing Council to be kept informed of enrolments of children with severe food allergies (their identities will not be disclosed).
- New staff and relieving teachers to be informed at induction.

Definition of Anaphylaxis:

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes; either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure.

Reviewed and approved by Governing Council July 2012

Q: *Does this include foods that state ‘May contain traces of nuts?’*

A: *No.* Some examples of food labels are :-

“May contain traces of nut, egg and seed”;

“This product is manufactured in facility where nut based

products are also produced and therefore may contain traces of peanut/
tree nuts”;

Or: “may contain traces of peanut+/or other nuts”.

These disclaimers are added to many food labels.

The Reynella South Kindergarten Governing Council is guided by advice from the Anaphylaxis Association that the risks from foods containing “traces’ of an allergen are considered

negligible. Therefore the Governing Council hereby decides not to ban products with disclaimers like these.

This policy has been endorsed by the Governing Council and should be reviewed on new enrolment of a child with a severe food allergy or, at minimum, annually.

Date.....

Chairperson.....

Director.....