

Anaphylaxis Management For Holden Hill Kindergarten

The duty of care of the Director, Staff and Community is to ensure the safety of all children whilst attending kindergarten; therefore we need to provide an environment that will prevent the risk of exposure to nuts and other allergens. In the event that accidental exposure may occur, the preschool has an emergency procedure in place.

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. A few reactions are life threatening, some children are severely allergic to foods such as peanut butter and products that may contain traces of 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 peanut 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 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 to prevent permanent injury or loss of life (Adrenalin opens up the airways and blood vessels in the body).

What is required by families:

- Children who suffer from Anaphylaxis will have an "Action Plan for Anaphylaxis" completed by the child's doctor and returned to the kindergarten staff before they start attending kindergarten, or once the allergy has become known. This will be stored in the child's file and in the medication folder on the kitchen bench.
- Any medication must be labelled and placed in the Medication Box on the kitchen bench as well.
- Parents are required to check that the medication has not expired and that it is ready for use if necessary.

What is required by staff:

- All staff will be notified of all allergy's and follow the action plan/emergency procedure if required.
- Staff must have the necessary training needed in order to administer medication, such as using epi-pens. If a staff member has not had the training, or it has been a long time since they have been trained, they must notify the Director of the Centre so training can be organised.
- Staff will also abide by the kindergarten's Healthy eating and "No Nuts" policy to support the management of Anaphylaxis.
- Ensure that appropriate information sharing of children who suffer from allergy's including the child's photo is available, such as on the kitchen notice board, so that relief staff and volunteers are also made aware of specific children's health needs.