



**Curtin Primary School is an inclusive, innovative and supportive learning community that fosters lifelong opportunities, success and a love of learning for every individual in our school.**

## Allergies and Anaphylaxis Procedure

Curtin Preschools aim to raise awareness of potential risks of allergy and anaphylaxis, and to create a safe environment for all children and adults in the preschool through education for all. For children with allergies, anaphylaxis and those at risk of anaphylaxis our preschools will facilitate effective care, health management and management of emergencies.

A child may have a number of food allergies or there may be a number of children with different food allergies. It is not possible to have an allergy free policy for all these foods involved nor are we able to guarantee to families that all triggers or hazards will be completely removed from the environment.

The following procedure details the process for ensuring all needs are met in a respectful manner. Education and awareness guide our actions.

### Triggers/Causes of allergy and anaphylaxis

Food allergies can be due to tree nuts, (peanuts, Brazil, cashew, hazelnut and almonds), fish, shellfish, eggs, wheat, cow's milk, soy and seeds. The most common food allergies are cow's milk, egg and peanuts. Peanut is the most likely to need intervention, ie. using adrenaline.

Other substances which may cause severe allergic reactions are antibiotics and vaccines, insect stings, latex, rubber, soaps, Band-Aids and Elastoplast, homeopathic and naturopathic preparations and some plants.

### Definitions:

- Allergy: When there is a changed activity in the body; when an overactive immune system produces antibodies to a substance
- Adverse reaction: intolerance, hypersensitivity
- Food allergy (immediate): hives, asthma, anaphylaxis
- Food allergy (delayed); rashes, diarrhoea
- Anaphylactic Reaction: a severe, life threatening allergy causing redness, hives, swelling of face, abdominal pains, cramps, vomiting, swelling of airways and breathing difficulties, shock or lack of consciousness. This is the most severe form of allergic reaction and effective immediate management requires adrenaline and hospitalisation

### Procedures to reduce the risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis

Families will:

- provide information regarding their child's health, medications, allergies, doctor's contact details and emergency contact details
- documents from a medical professional must be shown confirming a child's allergies and an Approved Action Plan for anaphylaxis supplied prior to the child starting at preschool
- families will be asked for Action Plans to be updated by a medical professional annually

The Preschool will:

- ensure all educators are aware of children who have allergies and what they are allergic to prior to starting
- ensure all forms are signed by the parent or guardian in regard to administering medication and treatment in emergencies
- seek consent to display personal information about children or educator allergies
- ensure families of children with known anaphylaxis provide an adrenaline auto injector pen for their child/ren at all times when in attendance at the preschool
- ensure educators are trained in the emergency administration of adrenaline
- inform families that the preschool does not endorse or encourage nuts or nut products on the premises
- make further recommendations on what food items should not be brought to preschool after initial interviews with families where anaphylaxis is identified as appropriate, by signage and information in newsletters
- consider allergy and anaphylaxis when planning excursions and incursions
- ensure all children with food allergies only eat food that is prepared in accordance with the family or doctor's instructions

#### **Practices employed to reduce the risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis**

- in a case where a child is having a severe allergic reaction, or any signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the preschool team will immediately administer treatment in accordance with the child's Action Plan. The Action Plans will be kept in the preschool kitchen.
- Be aware that allergies in children can be triggered by contact in the following ways: ingestion, inhalation (dust or vapour), skin contact, or a bite or sting.
- Restrict the use of foods likely to cause allergy in craft, cooking and play
- Ensure parent has approved soaps, creams for children's use at the preschool, eg, sunscreen. If use is not approved, families will provide their preferred products.
- Educate the children about allergies and the importance of keeping their peers safe, eg, not sharing food at snack and lunch times.