

ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Rationale

Canberra Montessori School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students. We support families and students in responsible management of allergies.

This policy is adopted to protect students who have severe allergies (anaphylaxis), particularly those allergic to peanuts and other common food allergens.

Aims

To provide a healthy and safe environment and promote awareness of severe allergies; the service and all educators can effectively respond to and manage allergic reactions at the service to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, staff and visitors.

Implementation

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction and should always be treated as a medical emergency. Anaphylaxis occurs after exposure to an allergen (usually to foods, insects or medicines), to which a person is allergic. Not all people with allergies are at risk of anaphylaxis.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis are potentially life threatening and include any one of the following:

- Difficult/noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Swelling/tightness in throat
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Persistent dizziness and/or collapse
- Pale and floppy (in young children)

In some cases, anaphylaxis is preceded by less dangerous allergic symptoms such as:

- Swelling of face, lips and/or eyes
- Hives or welts
- Abdominal pain, vomiting (these are signs of anaphylaxis for insect allergy)

Several factors can influence the severity of an allergic reaction. These include exercise, heat, alcohol, and in food allergic people, the amount eaten and how it is prepared.

Parents are discouraged from sending peanuts to school. Requests such as this for other food products can be made in response to the enrolment of students with other medically diagnosed allergies at our school.

Responsibilities of the staff:

- The school has a First Aid Officer assigned to support any emergencies.
- Teaching staff are First Aid trained and aware of students throughout the school who are at risk of potential allergic reasons.
- Staff educate students in their care to support the student with allergy.
- Best practice hygiene and non-sharing of food brought from home is embedded into the Montessori approach to food consumption and handling.

Parents' Responsibilities

The service must be informed of all allergies/asthma, if any, upon enrolment of a child.

Parents are to supply a Medical Management Plan/Anaphylaxis action plan/ Asthma action plan provided by the registered medical practitioner. The Medical Management Plan must be used to inform the Medical Conditions Risk Minimisation Plan. Parents are responsible for updating their child's Medical Management Plan as necessary and will be regularly reminded by the service as per the Medical Management Communications Plan. A child will be excluded from the Centre if parents fail to update these plans.

Parents/Caregivers of an anaphylactic/ asthmatic child must make sure the appropriate medication is made available to the service to use in the event of an emergency.

If a child is found to not have the appropriate medication with them at the centre at any given time, the parents will be required to collect their child immediately. This is not to discriminate against a child with a disability but to protect the child, staff at the centre and other children.

All medications used for the treatment of anaphylaxis/asthma must have clear instructions on a pharmacy label and stored in a secure location. We are only permitted to give the child the exact dosage and frequency specified on the pharmacy label. Any adjustments to dosage must be provided in writing by your registered medical practitioner.

The school must be notified in writing by the registered medical practitioner of any changes to a child's condition that may affect their existing care at the service.

| Approved by: | Date: | Next Review Date: |
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| Principal | 1/2/2023 | 1/2/2025 |