Nut Awareness Policy

Purpose:
• To provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Banksia Park Kindergarten community.
• To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

* This preschool acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to state that we have eliminated nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Therefore we are a Nut "Aware" preschool.

* Advice from the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy recommends minimising the risk of food-induced Anaphylaxis in preschools by:
  • Obtaining medical information
  • Education of carers
  • Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers
  • Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies.

Management
The Nut Aware Policy will be managed by:
• Parents and caregivers will NOT send food to school with their child that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts.
• No nut products to be included in food on special food days or special events i.e. cakes, or in any cooking activities at the preschool or on excursions.
• Staff supervising students eating at lunch time.
• Students will NOT share food.
• Students will wash hands before and after eating.
• Staff participating in training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.

Promotion
The policy will be promoted by:
• Parents and caregivers being informed via the Policy Pamphlet distributed to all families at the beginning of each year.
• New families to the preschool community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package.
• Governing Council being informed and involved.
• Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities in the treatment of anaphylaxis as the need arises.
• Staff will be aware of specific students via photographs / information on display in the kitchen, enrolment folder and in the roll books.
• Education, information and procedures being part of staff induction.
• The Staff being in charge of Epi-pens and medications (These treatments will be supplied by the parent/caregiver)
• Staff being required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on any camps & excursions.
• The staff obtaining specific medical information from the family at the time of enrolling a student with a "nut allergy" (i.e. an Anaphylaxis Action Plan being provided by a medical practitioner). This will include:
  • Clear photo of the child
  • Documentation of the allergic triggers
  • Documentation of the first aid response and prescribed Medication
• Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan
• The Anaphylaxis Action Plan will need to be reviewed every term.
• Parents of all students at Banksia Park Kindergarten will be informed by a letter from the Director, where there is a student with a severe "nut allergy".

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.

This policy has been endorsed by the Governing Council and should be reviewed on enrollment of a child with a nut allergy.

Date..........................