

WODEN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

ALLERGY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Woden Early Childhood Centre aims to provide an environment that is safe and allows any child with allergies to participate in the daily routine of the centre without the risk or fear of being exposed to risks or traces of their allergen.

Woden Early childhood Centre recognises that an allergy is a life threatening condition and follows best practices to reduce risk of exposure and puts procedures into place to ensure professional management of allergic reactions.

Woden Early Childhood Centre works in partnership with families, following the recommendation of medical professionals in ensuring the management of childrens allergies within the Centre showing its commitment to :

- 1) raising the awareness of allergies amongst those involved with the Children's Service
- 2) Providing the necessary procedures to ensure the health and safety of all persons with allergies involved with the Children's Service
- 3) Providing an environment in which children with allergies can participate in all activities to their full potential.
- 4) Providing a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of allergies.

RATIONALE:

ASCIA tells us that the majority of food and alaphylactic reactions occur in preschool age children. Peanuts and other nuts are the most likely form of anaphylaxis

It is important to recognize the difference between an allergy and an intolerance. Allergy Captital tells us that :”Around 1 in 20 infants and 1 in 100 adults are allergic to food. Severe reactions result in difficulty breathing, severe rashes, swelling of the face or throat, dizziness, stomach upset or a drop in blood pressure (shock) and loss of consciousness. Other people complain of symptoms after eating like headaches, bloating or mouth ulcers that are not caused by allergies. Some of these result from enzyme deficiencies or food intolerance.

This policy supports inclusive practices at Woden Early Childhood Centre. Please refer to the Inclusion Policy.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all families who attend the Centre and all staff including volunteers

and students.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

ACT Centre based Children's Services Conditions 2000, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM:

Quality improvement and Accreditation system, Quality Practice guide 2005 principle 1.3, 1.4, 2.3., 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

LOCATION OF INFORMATION

This information is made available to all families and staff on orientation through the provision of the Policy Cd. Printouts can be made for families on request.

LINKING POLICIES

Medication Policy

Asthma policy

First Aid Policy

Policy Development and Review Policy

Inclusion Policy

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Anaphalaxis Australia – Back to school be allergy aware – retrieved from www.allergyfacts.com.au on 26/11/08

The australisian society of clinical immunology and allergy, [AASCIA guidelines for prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, pre schools and childcare centres](http://www.allergy.org.au) retrieved from www.allergy.org.au on 26 November 2008

Allergy Captital, Food intolerances retrieved on 27/11/08 from <http://www.allergycapital.com.au>

POLICY REVIEW

This policy is reviewed on a biannual basis both by the centres staff and then by families. Once the Policy has been reviewed and changes are made it goes to the management committee for ratification. Please refer to the Policy development and review policy.

Date endorsed by Committee: 24.3.09

Date to be reviewed: 4.3.10

STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES

it is essential that the Centre

- 1) Identify children at risk due to allergy and anaphylaxis
- 2) obtain documentation and information about the child's allergy from a medical professional
- 3) consider elimination of the allergen if recommended by medical professional and if possible
- 4) develop of a crisis plan in conjunction with medical professionals instructions
- 5) provides opportunities for releveant staff training on allerguies and Anaphylaxis

Centre Responsibilities

To request information on Enrolment forms regarding known allergies of children being enrolled.

To discuss these allergies and their treatment with the parents/carers and ensure that staff have been given relevant information.

1) To ensure that parents/carers have provided documentation from a medical professional and completed an Illness/Condition Management Plan,

2) To ensure that staff are aware of the plan and put appropriate strategies in place.

3) To check that medical and personal information in relation to any child with known allergies is updated annually or more often where necessary.

4) To develop an emergency action plan for each child with allergies in conjunction with parents/carers and the child's doctor.

5) To ensure that some staff in each room are trained and current in the recognition of a severe allergic reaction and the procedure to take when they suspect a child is having an allergic reaction.

6) To put procedures in place to exclude food which is known to cause an anaphylactic reaction in any child enrolled at the Centre.

Staff Responsibilities

- To be aware of allergies of children in their care and to maintain a copy of Illness/Condition Management Plan and Emergency Action Plan in the child's illness and accident register.
- To display information regarding children with known allergies, including name, photograph, list of foods which cause allergic reaction and relevant emergency information.
- To ensure food is not contaminated or cross contaminated with any product known to cause an allergic reaction with any child currently in care.
- To discourage and prevent children sharing food while in care and to encourage awareness and acceptance of inclusive practices for the different needs of children.

Responsibilities of parent of child with known allergy

- 1) To provide information regarding any known allergies on the Enrolment Form.
- 2) To complete an Illness/Condition Management Plan in consultation with the Director and Room Leader.
- 3) To provide medical information relating to their child who has a known allergy,
- 4) including a recommended emergency action plan from the child's doctor.
- 5) To update the Illness/Condition Management Plan and Emergency Action Plan when necessary.
- 6) To provide clear and consistent information to staff regarding the
- 7) requirements of their child in relation to allergic reactions
- 8) To assist staff to manage situations where food is shared by children (eg
- 9) birthdays), it would be helpful if parents/carers provide food that can be stored
- 10) at the centre and used as alternative treats for their child when necessary.

Responsibilities of other parents at the centre

- 1) To read carefully and adhere to the policies regarding the exclusion of food which is known to cause an anaphylactic reaction in any child enrolled at the Centre.
- 2) To be aware of the information regarding children with known allergies displayed, particularly in their child's room.
- 3) It would be helpful if parents can provide a list of ingredients used in any
- 4) home cooked food they bring to the centre to be shared and to include packaging with other food so ingredients can be checked

The supply of meals for children with diagnosed allergies

The centre works in co-operation with families to minimize the risk of exposure to an allergen. In the case of children with diagnosed allergies it may be possible for the Centre to offer a varied diet. Examples of allergies we are able to cater for include

- 1) the centre is a nut free centre – no nuts are eaten in the Centre
- 2) offering egg alternatives in cooking
- 3) restricting dairy intake if parents require a replacement such as soy then parents need to supply it (yogurt, soymilk etc)
- 4) not offering pork to a child for religious or cultural reasons whilst not an allergy this is something we take

Where children have more than one allergy or a more complicated diagnosed dietary restriction or food intolerance it may become impractical for the Centre to cater for the meals of a child as an individual, bearing in mind that we have 61 children attending the Centre a day and up to over 100 children attending the centre across the week. In this case it then becomes the parents responsibility to provide meals for the child .

When packing meals for a child to consume at the centre parents need to ensure

- 1) enough food is packed for the day – morning tea, lunch desert and afternoon tea
- 2) food is packaged in a lunch box with all items clearly labeled with the child's name
- 3) the meal does not contain nuts
- 4) the lunch is placed in the rooms refrigerator so that it is stored at a safe temperature

5) Parents have discussed with staff the need for heating any part of the meal.

6)

when meals are provided for the children by families staff ensure:

- 1) that they are available to provide information to families about what foods their child has eaten from their lunch box or any issues arising from the food supplied..
- 2) that the child does not share food from other children
- 3) that the Illness/Condition Management Plan is followed at all times.

Review process

Through frequent conversation staff and families work together to ensure that meals for a child with allergies are managed professionally and in the child's best interest. Where needed staff and families may arrange a time to meet.

Woden Early Childhood Centre reserves the right to ask families to supply their own food for a child when it is no longer possible for the Centre to do so due to the type or complication of allergy.

linking policies

meals

food and nutrition

asthma

first aid

code of conduct within the Centre

conflict resolution