

## ALLERGY AWARE POLICY

### Rationale

To outline the procedures that apply to managing Allergy Awareness, in all Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) preschool sites, in accordance with the requirements of **Regulation 168(2)(d) of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011***.

### Staff

At least one staff member **on site** is trained in First Aid including anaphylaxis first aid using prescribed adrenalin via an Epi pen (auto injector).

### Safe Storage and Immediate Access

**The Epi pen (auto injector) and other first aid equipment is stored in the corner cupboard to the left of the Entry door.** Storage in this area is safe and secure and readily accessible for educators and does not usually experience large fluctuations in temperature.

While acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies children are encouraged to self-manage when able.

### Planning for Safety

**Each child with anaphylaxis needs a care plan completed by a medical professional.**

The care / support plan reflects the ages and stage of development of the child and includes planning for:

- informing all relevant staff including all relieving teachers
- excursions
- special programs such as visiting presenters/programs
- evacuation and invacuation
- activities where exposure to egg and milk cartons, seeds, play dough (chocolate essence) and egg shells may occur.

**All Allergy Care Plans are displayed inside the corner cupboard and on the back of the cupboard on the left as you enter the office and at the front of the Attendance Folder.**

### Parents

**Parents are responsible for providing the care plan and any medication and ensuring that medication provided has a current expiry date.**

Parents and families of children with a care plan are included in, but not ultimately responsible for, worksite education and planning for their child.

### Review

Care and support planning is reviewed routinely, at times of parent/family-teacher interviews and always at times of transition to school.

### Food Supply and Cooking Experiences

Staff and children/families are made aware of, understand and apply allergy aware practices.

All families in the pre/school community are regularly informed about allergy aware policy and practice in education and children's services.

**To ensure the safety of all children the Kindergarten asks that Parents do not supply nuts or products containing nuts.**

### Food Safety and Allergy Awareness

- **Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.** Some children may require non-soap based washes, eg those with eczema
- Children are supported to eat only the food provided by their family and not to share food.

## ALLERGY AWARE POLICY (cont'd)

- Children are taught about food allergies as part of food and nutrition education and any practical activities are planned with an assumption that some participants have a food-related allergy.
- Food should not be supplied to children with anaphylaxis unless pre-arranged and agreed with the family. It is assumed any product might have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise.
- People preparing food follow standard precautions to ensure food is not cross contaminated.
- Planning excursions takes into account food supply, including discussing food with the Family.
- Food is not given as a reward/treat.
- Be aware of using food as a fundraising exercise.

Messages adapted from

### ***be a MATE: Make Allergy Treatment Easier***

- **Take food allergies seriously**
- **Know what your friends are allergic to**
- **Don't share your food/drink with friends who have food allergies**
- **Don't pressure your friends to eat/drink something**
- **Use your "bullying no way" strategies if you see anyone being bullied, including someone being bullied about their allergies**
- **Get adult help immediately if your friend feels sick, especially after eating something.**

Allergy Australia Inc [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au)

(adapted with permission from the *Be A Pal* programme developed by  
The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network [www.foodallergy.org](http://www.foodallergy.org))

This policy will be shared with all new staff and families and is available on the website and in the Preschool Policies Folder. Children will be involved in discussions about appropriate behaviour.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Council, Staff and Families at this centre.

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly and modified as required to ensure continued relevance to the Hackney Kindergarten Community.

The Governing Council endorsed this policy on:

Date: June 2016