



TORRENS VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE INC.

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Allergy Aware Policy

At Torrens Valley Children's Centre, we aim to be an *Allergy Aware Environment* who work with children and families to create a safe learning environment for all children, inclusive of those with allergies. The policy aims to ensure that staff, families and children become more allergy aware through becoming familiar with common serious allergens and gaining an understanding of the procedures required to support children with allergies. Some children are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to certain allergens and therefore need to have appropriate measures in place prior to attending the centre. As a number of children with nut allergies have and continue to attend our centre, the Governing Council/Management Committee have deemed our centre to be NUT AWARE. We ask that products containing any type of nuts are not brought into the centre at any time.

Common allergens include:

- Foods (peanuts and tree nuts, shellfish and fish, milk, eggs, some fruits)
- Insect bites/stings (Bees, wasps, jumper/hopper ants)
- Medications (antibiotics, aspirin)
- Latex (rubber gloves, balloons)

Common reactions include swollen eyes, hives, wheezing and asthma symptoms. Some reactions are life threatening.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and can result in death. An anaphylactic reaction (full body shock) can occur within seconds of exposure to an allergen or it may occur as a delayed reaction several hours after initial exposure. Anaphylaxis is a critical medical emergency that requires immediate treatment with adrenalin by injection to prevent injury or loss of life. (Adrenalin opens up airways and blood vessels in the body)

Allergy Aware Procedures and Practices:

The centre must be informed by families of all allergies, if any, upon enrolment and if it any time after, when allergies are identified. Centre staff, in consultation with families, will conduct a risk assessment and develop a health support plan (if required). Additional training for staff may be identified at this time. All contact staff will complete mandated approved training in Asthma & Anaphylaxis management. As per national Law, there will always be at least one educator on site at all times with the approved training.

Parents/caregivers of children with severe allergies will be required to provide an *Allergy Care/ACSLIA Allergy Plan* for the child, prior to beginning attendance, completed and signed by the child's treating medical professional. The centre will complete a *Health Support Agreement* in consultation with the family. The centre will also develop a *Safety and Risk Management Plan* for the child which will be attached to the Health Support Agreement.

Parents/caregivers will be required to provide any medication (named and with current expiry date), including auto injector/epipen to the centre each time their child attends. It may be left at the centre. No child requiring an epipen will be able to attend the centre without it.

The centre now has a generic epipen for use in emergency situations. It does not replace the need for children with identified anaphylaxis to supply their own.

All staff, including relief staff, and volunteers will be informed of the needs of children with Health Support /Care Plans.

Parents/caregivers of other children will be notified when a child has an allergy with potential for anaphylaxis attend the centre, via a note on the entrance door. Information regarding foods or other items (ie; collage/junk materials) to be avoided/excluded at the centre will be communicated to families, in accordance with the child's Health Support Plan and Safety and Risk Management Plan.

This policy will be provided to all new families on enrolment and communicated to families during the year, through newsletters etc. In addition during the first two weeks of both Term's 1 and 3, staff provide verbal reminders to all parents.

If children bring products that contain excluded allergens (ie; nuts) the following procedures will be followed:

- ✚ If the product has been detected prior to possible exposure to a child with a known allergen (i.e. lunch box check in kitchen away from children)
 - Staff will remove item and dispose of in external (carpark) bins or store in "staff only" areas.
 - An alternative food stuff will be provided to the child if required
 - Parent/caregiver of child who brought product in will be notified of above actions immediately
 - Parent/caregiver of child with known allergen will be notified on collection
- ✚ If there is ANY chance that the product may have come into contact with the child with a known allergen, such as if a product has been opened or part consumed during a meal time prior to detection
 - Staff will remove the child from the area (i.e. table) and wash hands etc.
 - The product will be removed as above and the area where product has been will be thoroughly cleaned
 - The child who has brought the product will have hands & face washed and spare clothes put on to avoid traces coming into contact with other children
 - The parent/caregiver of the child with a known allergen will be contacted immediately to advise of incident, how it was managed and any action we will take to monitor their child for signs of allergic reaction.
 - The parent/caregiver of the child who brought the product will be notified after the above family to advise of any action taken.
 - A WHS Near Miss/Hazard Form will be completed by the Responsible Person in the room (Child Care or Kindy)

Curriculum:

Children identified as being susceptible to anaphylaxis will not be supplied food by the centre unless arranged and agreed to with the family. Discussions with families of children with allergies will occur as part of planning for centre experiences such as cooking or excursions.

Educators will incorporate education about food allergies into the programme so that all children have an opportunity to become more allergy aware.

Children will not swap or share food that has been brought from home. (Child Care staff will monitor and prepare fruit brought from home for shared snack time). Children are required to sit in designated areas when eating and the areas are to be cleaned by staff after mealtimes. Staff will monitor learning areas such as collage/making where exposure to allergens may occur e.g.; egg/milk carton, nut food packaging etc. Where a specific allergen is identified, families will be requested to not bring particular items to the centre.

No food stuffs for sharing, other than for Child Care morning snack time, will be brought into the centre.

Policy Review date: July 2021

Next Review date: July 2024

