



MAITLAND CHILDREN'S CENTRE **ANAPHYLAXIS and ALLERGY POLICY**

Maitland Children's Centre is committed to ensuring that children in our care are provided with the best possible care.

This policy is done in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations. The regulations relating to this policy include:

- Regulation 90 – Medical condition Policy
- Regulation 91 – Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
- Regulation 94 – Authorisation requirements – Anaphylaxis or Asthma emergency
- Regulation 136 – First Aid Qualification
- 173 – Prescribed information to be displayed

With children that have an allergy or anaphylaxis reaction to a certain product, every step will be taken to ensure that children are not exposed to that allergen while in the centre

Maitland Children's Centre will take the following action to reduce this risk:

1. Obtain medical information

- This information will be required from the parent on enrolment. The parent will need to provide the ASCIA action plan for allergic reaction/anaphylaxis, which has been completed by a register doctor or medical practitioner and it will include the following information
 - Clear identification of the child – photo must be present
 - Documentation about the allergic triggers
 - Documentation of the first aid response including the medication required
 - Identification and contact details of the doctor/medical practitioner that signed the document.
- On enrolment parents will be asked to sign a consent form that will give the centre permission to display a photo of their child to enable all staff, parents and children that there is a child that has an anaphylaxis reaction, what the reaction is to, and then that steps need to be taken to assist the child.
- Every child with an allergen will have an anaphylaxis management plan, which is done in conjunction with the staff and the enrolling child's family.
- Parents will be responsible for providing the action plan and medication and ensuring that the medication provided has a current expiry date.
- Staff will ensure that the plan is reviewed regularly, and always at the time of transition.
- Caregivers will be reminded on an annual basis of this policy to ensure ongoing compliance.

2. Education of educators

- Recognition of the risk and understanding the steps that can be taken to minimise anaphylaxis by all those responsible for the care of children in the centre, are the basis of prevention.
- Staff in the centre are to be trained in Anaphylaxis Awareness. Certificates of completion will be stored in staff files.

3. Practical strategies to avoid exposure to know triggers

- Avoidance of specific triggers is the basis of anaphylaxis prevention. Appropriate avoidance measures are critically on education of children, staff and parents.
- The centre has a sign at the door to remind caregivers each day of which foods (nuts, eggs) that are not to be brought into the centre, if there is currently any children in the centre with an anaphylaxis reaction.
- For children that have an allergen to other products, when this allergen is identified, it will be removed where possible from the centres environment. – egg carton removed if egg allergy.
- When the allergen is environmental, eg bee stings – educators will have access to children's medication (on hand)
- All children and staff will wash their hands on entering the centre and after food consumption.
- Children with an anaphylaxis reaction will not be excluded from any activities that are undertaken within the centres environment, unless directed by the parent, or unless it is going to have a detrimentally effect on the child's health.

4. Age appropriate education of children with severe allergies.

- We recognise the importance of parents having the responsibility of teaching children about allergies, the centre recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment of all children.

5. Food Policy measures

- We will ensure that the following measures take place
 - There will be no trading or sharing of food, food utensils or food containers
 - Items for the children's use will be clearly labelled.
 - The use of food in regard to cooking classes or science experiments will be restricted when a child with an allergen is present.
 - Food preparation will have measures to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food.
- Refer to the Food Safety Policy and Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policy for more information on general safety measures undertaken within the centres environment.

6. Storage of medication

- Children's medication will be stored in the kitchen first aid kit on the wall. In a clearly labelled container.
- Medication consent and medication administration records will be kept with the medication.
- Parents will be notified as soon as possible that emergency medication has been administered to their child.

Policy information sourced from

1. ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, Preschools and Child care.
2. Education and Care Services National Regulation 2012
3. Allergy and anaphylaxis aware – checklist for education and children's services.
4. Managing Anaphylaxis in child care settings
5. Australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy – www.allergy.org.au

Chairperson, Governing Council

Centre Director

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