Salisbury Heights Preschool

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:
Salisbury Heights Preschool aims to provide a learning environment that is safe and supportive of all children. This includes providing for the needs of children and staff who may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, including nut allergies. For these individuals exposure to triggers may constitute a serious risk to their health and wellbeing. While it is not possible to guarantee the environment will be completely free of potential hazards, risks can be minimised by compliance with reasonable guidelines. Salisbury Heights Preschool follows practices to reduce risk of exposure and implements procedures to ensure professional management of allergic reactions.
Salisbury Heights Preschool in partnership with families and following the recommendation of medical professionals is committed to:
1) raising the awareness of anaphylaxis amongst those involved with the preschool.
2) providing the necessary procedures to ensure the health and safety of all persons within the preschool.
3) providing a safe environment in which children with severe allergic reactions can participate in activities to their full potential.

RATIONALE:
The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) informs us that food (eg nuts, egg, cows milk, fish, shellfish, sesame and soy) is the most likely trigger for an anaphylactic reaction in susceptible younger children. However other hazards may include bees, other insects and more rarely medication. It is estimated that approximately 1 in 200 people will experience an anaphylactic reaction at sometime during their lifetime. From experience at Salisbury Heights Preschool the most common trigger for anaphylaxis is peanuts or tree nuts. Consequently this policy is written with nut allergies in mind.

SCOPE:
This policy applies to all families who attend the preschool and all staff including volunteers.

IMPLEMENTATION:
Management of anaphylaxis is by avoidance of the trigger in this case nuts. To this end, the following guidelines are in place:
- For snack, Parents are requested to only send fruit, vegetables, yoghurt or cheese.
- For children staying for lunch Parents are requested NOT to send food that contains nuts eg peanut butter, Nutella.

On enrolment:
- Parents must indicate on the enrolment form if their child has experienced a severe allergic reaction and discuss the needs of the child with a staff member.
- Before commencement at the preschool parents will be requested to have their medical practitioner complete anaphylaxis action and care plan. It is the responsibility of the Parent to inform staff if there is any change to the medical information detailed in the action plan during the period of a child’s enrolment at the preschool.
- Staff will then develop and document an appropriate health support plan, including a photograph of the child. A copy will be provided to the parent, with additional copies stored with the child’s medication in the first aid cupboard, in the health care plan folder and in their file in the filing cabinet in the office.
- Parents will supply appropriately labelled and prescribed medication as per the care plan.
Parents are responsible for ensuring their child’s medication is within date and supplying replacements when beyond the expiry date.
All Parents will be requested to comply with the snack and food guidelines outlined above and informed of this policy.

Preschool/Staff responsibilities:
• Staff will ensure that the appropriate care plans are in place, information regarding children with known allergies (with photographs) is displayed and that all staff are aware of children with anaphylactic reactions.
• Staff will follow the actions detailed in a child’s care plan on exposure to a trigger.
• Staff will undertake appropriate first aid and anaphylaxis training.
• Staff will discourage children from sharing food from home while at preschool and encourage awareness of inclusive practices for the needs of different children.
• Appropriate child:staff ratios will be maintained during snack/ lunch times to ensure adequate supervision. Staff will particularly monitor children identified with severe allergic reactions.
• Staff will liaise with parents to ensure that food brought to preschool complies with the guidelines above.
• Staff will ensure that cooking experiences will not include ingredients from the list of current allergies and at no time will include nuts or products containing nuts.

Promotion:
This policy will be promoted through:
• Information provided on enrolment for all families.
• Information provided for staff on induction and at regular intervals.
• Signs at the preschool.
• Reminders in newsletters as required.

AUTHORISATION
This policy was adopted at the Governing Council meeting on 30-11-2015

REVIEW:
The policy will be reviewed annually by staff and governing council and the Council will within 28 days of making any change, notify the parents/guardians of that change.

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the staff and governing council will:
• Take into account feedback from parents/guardians and the staff regarding the effectiveness of the policy.
• If a child has an anaphylaxis incident, review the policy in respect to the adequacy of the response of the preschool.