

Policy for: Allergies
Updated: July 2009
Criterion: 5.B.05

The preschool protects children with food allergies from contact with the problem food. The program asks families of a child with food allergies to give consent for treatment of symptoms due to food allergy, including administration of medication. We also ask for consent to provide the antidote for anaphylactic reactions, including EpiPens or Benadryl, depending on the treatment prescribed by the doctor.

The preschool staff will maintain continuous communication with parents. The preschool staff will continue to be well trained, prepared, and knowledgeable about the specific allergies children have (including recognition of symptoms).

The preschool is able to do the following to ensure the safety of children with food allergies:

1. To the extent possible, the preschool will request that parents do not bring the food allergen in for snack or for any other learning activity. The teachers will also refrain from bringing the allergen in for snack or for use in a learning activity. The school cannot **guarantee** a completely safe environment.
2. The preschool will request that all children wash their hands upon entering preschool and before they eat snack.
3. The preschool will post information about the child's allergy in each class's snack cabinet and the director's office. Along with this visual reminder will be instructions for treatment should an allergic reaction occur. These instructions will also be filed in the child's file.
4. The preschool will become trained and familiar with the signs of a mild or severe allergic reaction and the treatment required for each including administration of the EpiPen. The school will also assume responsibility to check the expiration dates of all medications kept in the locked classroom cabinets.
5. The school will advise the parents of a student with a life-threatening allergy that all other parents in the classroom will be informed of the specific allergy and will be requested not to send to the school any foods that contain the allergen.

The parent should:

1. Provide documentation from a medical professional regarding the specific allergen that affects their child. Parents will need to provide the antidote for anaphylactic reactions, including EpiPens or Benadryl, depending on the treatment prescribed by their physician. Parents will also need to supply written instructions and permission for administration.
2. Parents may choose to provide their own child's snack or sign-off on snacks the child may have in preschool.