



Allergy Policy

Rationale:

The incidence of allergies in children has increased significantly in the last two decades. An allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to a substance that's harmless to most people. But in someone with an allergy, the body's immune system treats the substance (called an allergen) as an invader and reacts inappropriately, resulting in symptoms that can create discomfort or cause real harm. Early childhood centres have a responsibility to ensure that environments are appropriately managed so that potential risks to allergy sufferers are eliminated or at least minimised.

Objectives:

- To ensure that children with allergies are identified and that plans are in place to manage any risk involved effectively
- To ensure that staff and families discuss allergy plans on a regular basis and that modifications to plans are made in a timely manner when required
- To ensure that risk factors for allergy sufferers at Small World are eliminated or minimised where practical
- To ensure that staff have respond effectively to any allergic reaction a child may suffer while at Small World

Procedures:

- At enrolment families are asked to identify any allergies their child may have and to develop a management plan in consultation with Small World staff and a medical practitioner where required
- An 'allergy sheet' is developed for each child with an allergy and posted throughout the centre. This sheet contains the child's photo, information about their allergy, symptoms and signs to watch for, information about how to respond should an allergic reaction occur, contact details for the family, and any other relevant information
- Children's allergy management plans are formally reviewed with the family prior to room transitions (or as required) and the management plan and allergy sheet will be updated following this consultation where necessary
- Allergy plans are formally discussed during transition discussions between head teachers of transitioning rooms
- Where anaphylaxis is possible, the child's family are invited to a whole centre meeting to discuss the management of their child's allergy and to personally instruct the staff in the procedures to be followed should an allergic reaction occur
- Where children have specific food allergies, staff will ensure that children do not access the foods or food products in question while at Small World. The ingredient lists on all food products used at Small World will be checked to ensure that they pose no risk to children with food allergies on the days they

are in attendance. Alternatively parents may wish to provide their own food in a named container.

- A list of all children with special dietary requirements will be kept in the Small World kitchen
- Where anaphylaxis is possible the management team at Small World may choose to ban all food and food products containing the allergen

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