Hills Grammar

Anaphylaxis Procedure

Statement

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. It occurs when a susceptible person is exposed to a specific allergen. Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of time. It can be triggered by foods, medications, bee or other insect stings. Anaphylaxis always requires an emergency response. With this in mind, the ECEC recognises the need to educate staff and families about anaphylaxis so that appropriate emergency responses occur.

Rationale

This policy aims to;

- Minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring to children within the ECEC.
- Raise awareness of anaphylaxis, the possible allergens and the emergency response required.
- Implement strategies to support the health and safety of children who are anaphylactic enrolled at ECEC.
- Provide an environment in which children with anaphylaxis can participate in all activities.
- Provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of individual cases.
- Educate the ECEC community on the severity of anaphylaxis and the importance of keeping those who are at risk of anaphylaxis, safe.

Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that educators have completed first aid and anaphylaxis management training.
- Oversee that all staff, educators and volunteers can identify the location of individual auto-injection devices and medical management plans.
- Liaise with Chartwells (the supplier of foods to ECEC) regarding any known allergies provided by children's families, so they can prepare menus and meals accordingly.
- Communicate with educators and staff members which children have anaphylaxis.
- Keep a list of ECEC children's food allergies on each of the food trollies providing details of any children diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and what the allergen is.
- Oversee that an anaphylaxis medical management action plan signed by the child's Medical Practitioner and a complete auto-injection device kit is provided by the parent / guardian for the child before the child commences care at the ECEC or as soon the child is diagnosed with anaphylaxis.
- Oversee a copy of the child's anaphylaxis medical management action plan is available to all staff.
- Routinely check the ECEC general adrenaline auto-injection device is readily available and in date.
- Regularly check the expiry dates of the adrenaline auto-injection devices and update the ECEC Medication Plans document located next to the medication board in the office as required.

- In the unlikely event that families need to bring in food from home for their child enrolled in ECEC, liaise with the family so they do not supply food that contains nuts, eggs or any other food in which children are anaphylactic to who are enrolled in ECEC.
- In the unlikely event that families need to bring in food from home for their child enrolled in ECEC, complete and review routinely a risk assessment, requesting families read through and sign this document in agreement with the possible risks and controls put in place.

Educators will:

- Maintain current training in First Aid and anaphylaxis management training.
- Be aware of the children enrolled in ECEC with anaphylaxis.
- Identify and minimize triggers within the child's environment.
- Support families and children should they arrive at ECEC with food from outside ECEC. Communicate the importance of this with parents / guardians.
- Not keep food or drinks other than water in the fridges in the rooms.
- Ensure that children's individual auto injectors (eg Anapen/ Epipens) are taken in the emergency backpack whenever the child who is anaphylactic leaves the ECEC premises. Educators will then ensure the medical bag with the auto injector is hung back up in the office upon return to the ECEC.
- Follow the child's anaphylaxis medical management action plan in the event of an allergic reaction, which may progress to anaphylaxis.
- Educate children within the rooms about allergies for themselves and those around them.
- Avoid sharing utensils, crockery or drink containers and support children to do the same.
- Clean tables and other surfaces which have come into contact with food using soapy water.
- Wash hands before and after serving food to children and support children to do the same.
- In the unlikely event that families need to bring in food from home for their child enrolled in ECEC, oversee that the family signs the food chart indicating that the food does not contain nuts, eggs or other food products which children enrolled in ECEC are anaphylactic to before taking the food. Place the food brought from home in the fridge in the kitchen or in the pantry.
- Check that when food brought from home is brought to the room for serving, the form completed by the child's parents accompanies it. Check the form to oversee the food is free of allergens and is served to the correct child.
- Remind kitchen staff that food brought from a child's home for them to have at ECEC will be labeled with the child's name and stored in a separate container in either the ECEC pantry of the fridge in the kitchen.

In a situation where a child who has not been diagnosed as allergic, but who appears to be having an anaphylactic reaction:

1. Call an ambulance immediately by dialing **000**
2. Commence **first aid** measures
3. Contact the School Nurse **9654 5122** or ext **1122**
4. Contact the parent / guardian

Families of children with anaphylaxis will:

- Inform staff at the ECEC, either on enrolment or on diagnosis, of their child's allergies.
- Provide staff with an anaphylactic medical management action plan, signed by the Medical Practitioner, giving written consent to use the auto-injection device in line with this action plan.

- Provide staff with an auto-injection device kit and additional allergy medication required as per the individual Medical Management Plan.
- Routinely check the adrenaline auto-injection device and provide a new device before the expiry date.
- Notify the staff of any changes to their child's allergy status and provide a new anaphylaxis action plan annually or in accordance with these changes.
- Comply with the ECEC policy that no child who has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injection device is permitted to attend the ECEC without that device or Medical Management Plan.
- In the unlikely event, that families provide food for their child while they are at ECEC, ensure that the food does not contain foods that children enrolled in ECEC are anaphylactic to. In addition, families will be asked to sign a food chart confirming that food brought in from home does not contain nuts, eggs or other foods that children are anaphylactic to.
- Ensure children have eaten any food served from home before entering ECEC upon arrival.
- Follow the guidelines set out in the ECEC policies and procedures.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Anaphylaxis Australia https://allergyfacts.org.au/allergy-anaphylaxis

The Children's Hospital – Westmead https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/about/our-network/childrens-hospital-westmead

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.