**RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA AND / OR ANAPHYLAXIS**

**AIM:**

Holistic Approach FDC will ensure all relevant precautions including risk management strategies are in place to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction and an asthma attack occurring while the identified / or unidentified child/ren are in the care of the educators service.

**The Scheme will actively involve the parents/ guardians** of each identified child in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for their child

In the child care environment, strategies used to reduce the risk of asthma and anaphylaxis for individual children will depend on the nature of the allergen / asthma / medical condition and the severity and maturity of the child.

**ANAPHYLAXIS**

The most common allergens in children are:

* peanuts
* eggs
* tree nuts (e.g. cashews)
* cow’s milk
* fish and shellfish
* wheat
* soy
* sesame
* certain insect stings (particularly bee stings)

**ASTHMA**

The most common signs in children are:

* colds
* cold weather
* coughing
* dust
* grass cutting
* stress
* exercise

**PROCEDURE**

* Outline **clear day-to-day management procedures** that are preventative (eg reduce risk of exposure to allergens, including safe environments, food and nutrition practices) and responsive (eg first aid and emergency response, including communication and training)
* Provide, as far as practicable, a safe and healthy environment in which children identified as at risk of anaphylaxis and asthma can **participate equally** in all aspects of the children’s program and experiences
* Ensure each educator and staff member has **adequate training and knowledge** of allergies, anaphylaxis and emergency procedures according to regulatory requirements.
* Ensure relevant management plans and signage are displayed.
* **Facilitate communication** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at risk of anaphylaxis, and
* **Raise awareness** about allergies and anaphylaxis amongst the service community and children in attendance
* Staff and parents need to be aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment in any licensed service that is open to the general community.

**The risk of accidental exposure to food allergens can also be reduced by:**

* asking parents of all children not to send foods that contain the most common allergens for celebrations and occasions when food might be shared
* making sure materials such as cow’s milk cartons, egg cartons or eggshells are clean and free of contamination before using for art and craft activities
* being aware of the risk to an identified child of using allergenic foods in cooking activities (e.g. baking cakes, frying eggs
* keeping grassed areas mown, and reducing plants that attract stinging insects

**Wherever possible the service will minimise exposure to known allergens by:**

* A child at risk of food anaphylaxis should only eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home or at the child care service under strictly supervised conditions. Children should not swap or share food, food utensils and food containers
* Some children have severe allergic reactions to insect venoms. Prevention of insect stings from bees and wasps include measures such as:
* wearing shoes when outdoors
* closing windows
* Educators should regularly inspect for bee and wasp nests on or near the property and store garbage in well-covered containers so that insects are not attracted.
* Staff will talk about symptoms of allergic reactions to children (e.g. itchy, furry, scratchy, hot, funny).
* Educators and consultants will include information and discussions about food allergies in the programs they develop for the children, to help children understand about food allergy, other allergies and medical conditions and encourage empathy, acceptance and inclusion of the allergic child.

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| **Review Process:** | | |
| **Version:** | **Date Reviewed:** | **Person responsible:** |
| Version 1 | April 2015 | Vicki Carmichael |
| Version 2 | April 2018 | Alina Dan |

This policy is the intellectual property of Holistic Approach Family Day Care Scheme and is created with consultation of educators and families attending the service.

This policy will be reviewed as required.

This policy is available in other languages upon request.