



ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGY POLICY

Mount Gambier Children's Centre is committed to ensuring that children in our care are provided with the best possible care.

This policy is done in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations. The regulations relating to the policy include:

- Regulation 90 – Medical condition Policy
- Regulation 91 – Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
- Regulation 94 – Authorisation requirements – anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
- Regulation 136 – First Aid Qualification
- Regulation 173 – Prescribed information to be displayed

With children that have an allergy or anaphylaxis reaction to a certain product, every step will be taken to ensure that children are not exposed to that allergen while in the centre.

Mount Gambier Children's Centre will take the following action to reduce this risk.

1. Obtain medical information

The information will be required from the parent on enrolment. This parent will need to provide the ASCIA action plan for allergic reaction/anaphylaxis, which has been completed by a registered doctor or medical practitioner and it will include the following information

- Clear identification of the child – photo must be present and updated as needed
- Documentation about the allergic triggers e.g. Is it ingestion of a food allergen or skin contact that is the trigger?
- Documentation of the first aid response including the medication required
- Identification and contact details of the doctor/medical practitioner that signed the document
- Contact numbers, as well as emergency contact persons if parent/carer not able to be contacted
- On enrolment, parents will be asked to sign a consent form that will give the centre permission to display a photo of their child in the room, to enable staff, parents and children using the room, to beware that there is a child that has an anaphylaxis reaction, what their reaction is to, and then the steps that need to be taken to assist the child.
- Every child with an allergen will have a management plan, which is done in conjunction with the staff of Mount Gambier Children's Centre and the enrolling child's family.
- Parents will be responsible for providing the action plan and medication and ensuring that the medication provided has a current expiry date.
- Staff will ensure that the plan is reviewed regularly and always at the time of transition e.g. from kindy to school
- Caregivers will be reminded on an annual basis of this policy to ensure ongoing compliance

- On enrolment, all parents who have discussed and identified that their child has an allergy or anaphylaxis reaction, will be given a copy of this policy to ensure they are provided with all the necessary information, on how the centre will address the issues, and reduce the chances of their child being exposed to the allergen

2. Education of educators

Recognition of the risk and understanding the steps that can be taken to minimise anaphylaxis by all those responsible for the care of children in the centre, are the basis of prevention

In accordance with regulation 136 – Mount Gambier Children’s Centre is committed to ensure that all qualified staff in the centre are trained in the ‘21827VIC – Course in Anaphylaxis Awareness’. Ideally education of all staff on this topic would be the goal and this will be updated every 3 years in accordance with the ACEQA guidelines.

In accordance with the regulation 173 – Mount Gambier Children’s Centre will ensure that all staff with the approved qualification will be displayed in the main entrance next to the names and qualifications of staff employed.

3. Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers

Avoidance of specific triggers is the basis of anaphylaxis prevention. Appropriate avoidance measures are critically on education of children, staff and parents.

Mount Gambier Children’s Centre is a nut aware centre, there is a sign on the door to remind caregivers each day, with a notice that indicates if we currently have any children in the centre with an anaphylaxis reaction.

For children who have an allergen to other products, when this allergen is identified, it will be removed where possible from the centre environment. E.g. – egg carton removed if egg allergy.

When the allergen is environmental, e.g. bee stings – educators will have a ‘Bum Bag’ that will contain the children’s action plan and the Epi-pen/Ana-pen.

Children with an anaphylaxis reaction will not be excluded from any activities that are undertaken within the centres environment, unless directed by the parent, or unless it is going to have a detrimental effect on the child’s health.

4. Age appropriate education of children with severe allergies

Mount Gambier Children’s Centre recognises the importance of parents as having the responsibility of teaching children about allergies, the centre recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment of all children in care.

5. Food Policy measures

Mount Gambier Children’s Centre will ensure that the following measures take place

- There will be no trading or sharing of food, food utensils or food containers
- Children with severe allergies will only eat food that is prepared under strict conditions within the kitchen environment by a staff member that has a very clear understanding of the steps that need to be undertaken to ensure the safety of the child.
- Items for the child’s use e.g. drink bottles, lunch boxes will be clearly labelled
- The use of food in regard to cooking classes or science experiments will be restricted when a child with an allergen is present.
- Food preparation personnel will be instructed about the measures to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food.

- Separate red knives, cutting boards, cups and plates will be used for children with allergies

Refer to the Food Safety Policy and Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policy for more information on general safety measures undertaken within the centre's environment.

6. Storage of medication

To ensure the safety of the child, staff will ensure the child's medication is placed in their individual medication storage container on arrival at the centre and is accessible by trained staff at all times. Medication is not to be stored in the fridge as it known to have an effect on the medication. A trained member will carry the medication in a 'BUM BAG' when accompanying the child outside of the centre's environment e.g. school visits and excursions.

Exceptions to consent

Mount Gambier Children's Centre is committed to ensuring that children in the centre are cared for in a manner that is safe to all users. Mount Gambier Children's Centre acknowledges that it must gain consent from parent/guardian before it is permitted to give medication. Mount Gambier Children's Centre acknowledges that consent does not need to be obtained from the parent/guardian, if it is deemed to be an emergency. In this case the parent/guardian will be informed as soon as possible after the emergency medication has been administered to the child. Mount Gambier Children's Centre will ensure that the medication record is completed for the parent to fill out and sign as soon as possible after the administration of medication has taken place.

General

- Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands before eating
- Anyone suspected of having contact with nuts to wash hands and surfaces cleaned
- Food is not given as a reward
- Children do not share or swap food
- Food and nutrition education incorporates education about food allergy and any practical food activities are planned with an assumption that some participants have a food-related allergy.

Policy review

- The service will review the Anaphylaxis / allergy policy
- If any changes are identified and made to this policy, it will be done in conjunction with staff, and any necessary training will be undertaken as a result.
- Families are encouraged to collaborate with the service to review the policy
- Staff are essential in the policy review process and are encouraged to be actively involved.

Policy information sourced from

ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, Preschools and Child Care

QUALITY AREA 2

STANDARD 2.1 ELEMENT 2.1.1, 2.1.4

STANDARD 2.3 ELEMENT 2.3.2, 2.3.3

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