



TLC Day Care Merrick Ave Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Elijah's Law

In 2019, New York State passed Elijah's law which tells childcare programs they must follow state food allergy guidelines and protocols to prevent, recognize, and respond quickly to life-threatening anaphylactic reactions.

Anaphylaxis Prevention

Upon enrollment and whenever there are changes, parents/guardians will be required to provide the program with up to date information regarding their child's medical conditions, including any allergies the child may have and any emergency medications prescribed for potential anaphylaxis. The parents/guardians will work in conjunction with the program and the child's physician to complete the documents required for any allergy that the child may have. These documents will guide all staff in the necessary actions to take during an allergic or anaphylactic reaction. The program will keep these documents and any emergency medications in a designated area known to all staff members as outlined in the program's health care plan and will ask for updated paperwork when necessary.

Individually prescribed epi-pens and all supporting documents will be accessible to the teachers in each classroom with a child who has an allergy. A copy of individual emergency plans and individual healthcare plans will be located in the child's personal folder. In addition, a list of children with allergies will be placed on all food cabinets, refrigerators, and in every classroom.

Documents

- Any child with a known allergy will have the following documents on file when applicable:
 - NYS OCFS form 7006 – Individual Health Care Plan for a Child With Special Healthcare Needs or approved equivalent
 - NYS OCFS form 6029 – Individual Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan or approved equivalent
 - NYS OCFS form 7002 – Medication Consent Form or approved equivalent
- In addition, the child's allergies will be indicated on their enrollment form.

- These forms will be completed by the child's parents in conjunction with the program and the child's physician. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, staff will call the North Merrick Fire Department at 516-221-1500 and follow the instructions outlined in these documents.

Staff Training

All staff members will be trained in the prevention, recognition, and response to food and other allergic reactions and anaphylaxis upon hire and at least annually thereafter. In addition, staff will take the *OCFS- Elijah's Law Training*. Francina, Ninette, and Liz are MAT trained, and all lead teachers have been trained to administer emergency epi-pens. 80% of staff are certified in CPR and First Aid. If a child with an allergy requires the administration of epinephrine or other emergency medications, the parents will be required to train any staff member caring for that child on the administration of the prescribed medication.

Staff training is ongoing. We encourage staff members to take *Identifying and Responding to Anaphylaxis: Elijah's Law Training*.

Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Allergic Triggers

Each classroom will have a listing of individual children's allergies that is inconspicuously posted for privacy, but visible to all staff and volunteers caring for the child. All staff will take steps to prevent exposure to a child's known allergy, including but not limited to reading food labels. Handwashing, cleaning, and all other regulations related to allergies and anaphylaxis as outlined in the OCFS Childcare Regulations will be followed by all staff and volunteers.

TLC is a peanut/tree nut-free facility. We provide breakfast, snacks, and lunch which is posted on our website at www.tlcmerrick.com. Parents can send in nut-free alternatives. Staff is told about all allergies in the classroom and trained to examine all food labels before being consumed to avoid peanut/nut ingestion. All food items must come in their original sealed packaging. Ongoing communication with parents is crucial. We implore all parents to be mindful of allergies in the daycare when feeding their children before arriving at the daycare or sending in foods. In addition, our food service prepares food in materials specific to our allergy needs.

Communication

Upon enrollment of a child with a known allergy, all staff and volunteers will be made aware of the child's allergy and associated medication needs, as well as ways to reduce the risk of exposure to said allergen. Head teachers inform assistants about allergies. A list of known allergies are posted in a private manner in the classroom. Group staff chats are set up in order to advise of any changes. In addition, all parents and children will be made aware of any allergies in the classroom, as well as actions being taken to reduce exposure. Confidentiality will be maintained when discussing any child's allergy with parents and other children.

Annual Notification to Families

Families will be given a copy of the program's Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy upon enrollment. This policy will be reviewed and updated annually. Families will receive an updated copy of this policy annually and whenever changes are made. The policy is located on our website available to current and prospective parents. Individual health care plans are also finalized with the Director and medical forms must be updated throughout the year.