ALLERGY AWARE POLICY

Link to National Quality Standard:
2.1 Each child’s health is promoted
2.1.1 Each child’s health needs are supported
2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards likely to cause injury.

Rationale
This policy was developed to protect children with food allergies attending Jamestown Community Children’s Centre. The most severe form of allergic reaction is anaphylaxis. Nuts are one of the most common (but not the only) allergens associated with anaphylaxis.

WHAT IS ANAPHYLAXIS?
Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. In the most severe cases, airborne particles containing the allergen can be enough to cause an anaphylactic reaction. Avoidance of the allergen is the key to preventing anaphylaxis. In the event of contact, Epipen should be administered immediately and a staff member must call 000.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include one or more of the following:
♦ coughing
♦ swelling of lip, face or body
♦ noisy/difficulty breathing
♦ hoarse voice
♦ difficulty swallowing
♦ difficulty talking
♦ vomiting

Symptoms may be present in any combination with or without a skin rash.

Strategies
1. When a child has been diagnosed with a food allergy, a current health care plan from the child’s doctor must be provided to the centre and updated at least yearly. All centre staff will be made aware of the allergy, symptoms and treatment.
2. The centre will advise the community of allergen foods via the newsletter and a sign placed at the entrance. Parents/caregivers will be asked not to send those foods to the centre in their children’s lunches.
3. Parents of children with food allergies are asked to educate their child about safe and unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions and telling an adult when they are having an allergic reaction. Staff members will educate all children attending the centre about safe and unsafe foods for children with food allergies.
4. Nuts and nut products are not to be sent in children’s lunches, even when there is not a child with a diagnosed nut allergy attending the centre. The centre provides care for babies and young toddlers who may not previously have been exposed to nut products and therefore may have an undiagnosed allergy. Nut products include peanut butter, nutella and other chocolate spreads, some muesli bars and biscuits and cakes containing nuts. Parents are asked to read the labels on pre-packages foods before sending them to the centre. Products labelled “May contain traces of nuts” are acceptable unless the centre advises otherwise.
5. The centre does not accept empty peanut butter containers for box work construction.
6. If children bring nut products or foods which have been identified as allergens for children attending the centre, they will be supervised in another area whilst eating. Parents will be reminded of the Allergy Aware Policy.
7. Children are not to share food from their lunchbox with others.
8. All children will wash their hands before and after eating.
9. Tables are to be cleaned thoroughly before and after eating.
10. All cooking activities will have recipes checked for allergen ingredients.
11. Regular reminders about the Allergy Aware Policy will appear in the centre newsletter.

Policy created/reviewed date: Term 3 2012
Approval Signatures:
________________________________ (Governing Council Chairperson)  _______________________________ (Director)