



PARENTAL ALERT LIFE THREATENING NUT ALLERGY

YOUR ATTENTION COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Date _____

Dear Parent,

We are writing to inform you that a child at school or in the child-care program has a life threatening allergy to nuts. If the child is exposed to nuts in any form (even trace amounts), the child may experience a type of shock called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a reaction that affects the entire body and can result in the child not being able to breathe and their heart stopping. Because of the severity of the reaction, a syringe of medication (epinephrine) must be given immediately and 911 must be called for help. Staff has been trained to recognize and respond to signs of this reaction, but we need your help.

Strict avoidance is the only way to prevent this type of reaction. The safest environment is one where there are no nuts of any kind in the classroom. To achieve a nut free environment, we need everyone's help. Another child bringing a nut containing food such as a peanut butter sandwich poses a huge risk for the child with the allergy. In fact, even the vapors from the peanut butter can cause a sensitive child to have a reaction. There are traces of nuts (peanuts etc.) and nut oils in many foods. Please check the labels on foods and do not send any foods containing nuts, peanuts or nut oils of any kind to school. If you are bringing in foods for special events or class parties, bring only commercially prepared food (no home-prepared food, please!) in the original packaging. The person in charge of the site must check all food labels **before** the package is opened. If there is any question as to the safety of the ingredients, the food may not be served.

We realize this request may cause you an inconvenience and we are sorry for this. We appreciate your help and understanding as we attempt to create the safest possible environment for our students.

Thanks again for your help and cooperation in this matter. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.