

Personal Safety Plan

Background:

In this hypothetical case, John Smith is 6 years old. He has a severe allergy to peanuts. His doctor has prescribed an EpiPen Junior. He's small for his age. Although he's quite smart, he tends to be a follower and is easily led astray by his classmates. His sensitivity to peanuts is at the extreme end of the spectrum. Even a small amount of peanut ingested can set off a reaction. His doctor has advised that it would be a good idea if John did not try any other nuts outside a controlled environment, just in case he has an extreme reaction

John has just been enrolled, having come from interstate. John's mother, Wendy seems reasonable person with a balanced attitude to her son's allergy ie She knows it can be life threatening but understands that John must also be taught to make his own way in the world.

But she is wary of how the new school will react as the last school John was at had a lackadaisical attitude toward allergies and she got the impression his former teacher thought John's mum was being "hysterical" about her son's health issues.

Wendy has supplied the new school with an EpiPen Junior.

John's classmates' parents have heard there will be a child in the class with anaphylaxis and most are supportive of any efforts to make the environment safe for John.

There are two parents, however, who believe that no one has the right to tell them what they should feed their child.

The younger children never use the school canteen. However, once a year an organisation that discusses healthy eating comes to the school and "shouts" all the students a nutritious lunch that they have in the school assembly area. The organisation is fully aware of the need to provide "Nut Aware" food. The school canteen is responsible for packing the lunches for each class.

Problems & solutions

Classroom

Problem: Some of John's classmates lack the maturity to grasp the impact of John coming into contact with nuts

Solution: Make class room, and any other, activities with John, "Nut Aware" through letters to parents and school newsletter.

Who's responsible: Ms Callas (vice Principal)

Problem: Food sharing during recess and lunch or touching John after eating a lunch with nuts

Solution: No sharing permitted/Casual checking of lunches

Who's responsible: Ms Lee (class teacher)

Problem: Parents sending children to school with products that contain nuts

Solution: Polite letter to parents of John's classmates asking them not to send children to school with nut products – but do not to worry about "traces of nuts".

Who's responsible: Ms Callas (vice-Principal)

Problem: Some class visitors may be unaware of Nut Aware status of class

Solution:
Signage on class door

Who's responsible:
Ms Lee

Problem: Special events eg birthdays (Note! This would apply even if class is not Nut Aware)

Solution: Ensure that food is completely nut free – including "traces" OR Make sure food does not contain nuts (but "traces" is OK) AND John BYOs

Who's responsible:
Ms Lee
Mrs Dwyer (who works in the school canteen and sources birthday treats)

Problems & solutions

Canteen

Problem: .Cross contamination from previous food preparation in canteen

Solution: Extra thorough wipe down of food prep areas. Separate prep of John's lunch.

Who's responsible: Mrs Dwyer

Here are some other settings you might also consider:

- **School yard**
- **Walk to another campus ("just a walk up the road" to a playground or swimming pool)**
- **Outdoor activities/Sports**
- **Bus to and from school**
- **Field trips/excursions**
- **Off-campus multi-school events (sports carnivals)**
- **Weekend sport**

Communications

Who do you need to communicate with?

Official school visitors (such as, say, entertainers need to be made aware that there is a child in the school with a nut allergy.

What do you need to say?

The school has a strict policy of not allowing visitors to give food or drink to children – unless given a special exemption by the Principal (Of course, explain why)

How will you tell them?

By letter/email. The coordinator of the activity will reinforce this when they are greeted at the school office.

So it does not rely on the memory of the person responsible, how will you implement this as part of a system?

It is written into school procedure documents that any visitor to the school, if they make an appointment in advance, will be informed of the policy in writing. All visitors will be informed when they are greeted at the school office.

Who is responsible? ..

Ms Callas

Who do you need to communicate with?

Ensure any relief teachers is aware of Ms Lee's obligations.

What do you need to say?

Please read John's Safety Plan and follow all instructions for Ms Lee

How will you tell them?

By letter/email. Part on induction

So it does not rely on the memory of the person responsible, how will you implement this as part of a system?

Written into induction document that all relief staff must check Personal Safety Plan pertaining to children in their care. Also, all visitors will be informed when they are greeted at the school office.

Who is responsible? ..

Ms Callas