

## **Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House Allergy Awareness Policy**

Because of the serious nature of childhood allergies, Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House has put into place policies to help accommodate children who have been diagnosed with severe allergies, specifically food allergies.

Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not an allergen-free school, and cannot guarantee your child will not be exposed to specific allergens. Parents should be aware that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House leases a shared space through the Columbia Association, and there are many elements of our environment which are beyond our control (e.g. activities that occur outside of school hours that may include the consumption or use of foods, including nuts, which could cause a severe allergic reaction).

Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House promotes a policy of parents providing nut free (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts) lunches and snacks, and therefore asks that parents prepare lunches and snacks from prepared foods and ingredients that do not contain nuts. Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House also promotes a policy of utilizing classroom materials that do not include or utilize nuts. However, parents must be aware that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not a guarantor of the manufacturing processes of third parties. Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is also not a guarantor that others outside of its control (e.g. parents) will abide by its food allergy policy in preparing food for their children. As such, Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not responsible if your child is exposed to allergens due to the negligence of a manufacturer or preparer and/or a parent's failure to abide by this Policy.

To help ensure the safety of your child, all parents are required to review and sign this policy. Parents of children with allergies that necessitate special medical attention are required to work with their pediatrician to complete the attached Food Allergy Action Plan and Personal Health Information Authorization prior to attending school. Please also use the Action Plan for non-food allergies that require special medical attention.

Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House believes in nurturing children in a positive environment that allows for open communication. Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House promotes an allergy aware environment where communication is the foundation. Communication requires the active participation of parents, Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House staff, physicians, and students.

Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House reserves the right to determine if a child's safety is at risk and may, at the school's discretion, require a child to be withdrawn temporarily from the classroom until an appropriate safety assessment can be made and corrective action taken. If such an event occurs, the parents of the child will be notified immediately, and the child will be supervised by a staff member until they are able to rejoin the classroom.

**Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House staff is not medically qualified to diagnose the severity of an allergic reaction. If, according to the Food Allergy Action Plan, Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House needs to administer an EpiPen as prescribed by a physician, the school will first administer the medication or EpiPen and then contact Emergency Services 911.**

BWMCH will notify parents of allergy incidents as soon as possible after the incident occurred.

In the event that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House must administer any medication to a child that has been approved by a parent, the school is only obligated to administer the medication in accordance with a doctor's directions. It is not a guarantor of the efficacy of the medication or that the medication has been properly prescribed by a physician.

The following outlines responsibilities for parents and Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House staff.

### **Parents of Children with Allergies**

- Prepare lunches and snacks from prepared foods and ingredients that do not contain peanuts and tree nuts.
- Read and sign our Allergy Awareness Policy
- Clean children's hands and faces prior to dropping child off at school. We suggest keeping hand wipes in the vehicles used for drop off. Please be aware that some hand wipes contain allergens.
- Together with your pediatrician, complete and sign the Food Allergy Action Plan and the Food Allergy Policy provided by The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network <http://www.foodallergy.org>. One plan should be used for all allergies.
- Provide a list of foods/ingredients that are not safe for your child. Clearly identify the allergies that your child has.
- Provide all necessary medications along with a doctor's prescription on the original packaging. For children that require EpiPens, parents must provide backup pen(s) in the event the first pen malfunctions.
- Educate your child on the nature of their specific allergy, including not sharing food with others and going to a staff member immediately when they feel symptomatic or not well.
- Maintain an open dialogue with all staff members.
- Sign a HIPPA privacy release form to allow children's Food Allergy Action Plans to be posted near all first aid kits, and to facilitate awareness among staff and students.
- Ensure children visiting or attending Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House do not bring in any food items except for lunch and snack.

- Come to Bryant Woods Montessori Children’s House within one hour of being notified of an allergy incident, unless otherwise directed.
- Parents with a family history of allergies are recommended to consult with their children’s pediatrician to conduct diagnostic allergy testing to identify potential allergies.

## **All Parents**

- Prepare lunches and snacks from prepared foods and ingredients that do not contain peanuts and tree nuts.
- Read and sign our Allergy Awareness Policy
- Clean children’s hands and faces prior to dropping child off at school. We suggest keeping hand wipes in the vehicles used for drop off. Please be aware that some hand wipes contain allergens.
- Ensure children visiting or attending Bryant Woods Montessori Children’s House do not bring in any food items except for lunch and snack.

## **Bryant Woods Montessori Children’s House**

- Review the Allergy Awareness Food Allergy Action Plan and health records with parents.
- Advise parents in writing of any cooking or food activities, and provide a list to parents of all foods to be used two weeks in advance. These lists are developed and updated by the school. Teachers must advise the Director of any cooking or food usage desired in the classroom and proceed only with the Director’s approval.
- Post copies of Food Allergy Action Plans near all first aid kits.
- Administer medications according to the Food Allergy Action Plan in the manner prescribed by the physician. No medicine will be administered by staff unless prescribed by a doctor and authorized by the parents in a signed Allergy Action Plan.
- Educate substitutes, special teachers and volunteers about allergy awareness.
- Send all parents Allergy Awareness Letter.
- Educate staff and classroom children about proper hand washing practices.
- Provide parents with Allergy Policy, Food Allergy Action Plans and Allergy Awareness Letter.
- Provide an eating table within the classroom for children with severe food allergies.
- Clean the tables and chairs before and after use.

- Store lunch boxes of children with allergies separately.
- Use a carpet sweeper around eating area after lunch. Vacuum cleaners may not be used during school hours (per State Department regulations.)
- Contact parents when a reaction occurs.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and will abide by the Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House Allergy Awareness Policy. I give permission for my child to attend Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, understanding that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not an allergen-free school. I am aware of the risks in allowing my child to attend Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, and have discussed these risks with my child's pediatrician who has consented to having my child attend Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House. I agree to allow staff, students and visitors attending Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House to be made aware of my child's allergies to promote an allergy aware environment. Such notification will be done in a respectful manner in accordance with Montessori principles.

I \_\_\_\_\_ agree to Release and hold Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House harmless from any losses, claims, liabilities, actions, causes of action, demands, damages, costs, fees, expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever in the event my child suffers from an allergen-related reaction caused by third parties outside of the control of Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, including, but not limited to, any person or entity involved in the manufacturing or preparation process, a parent of a child attending Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, any individuals or entities who share the space leased by Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, and allergen-related reactions caused by elements of the school's environment that are beyond its control (e.g. activities that occur outside of school hours that may include the consumption or use of foods, including nuts, which could cause a severe allergic reaction).

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that in the event that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House must administer any medication to my child that I have approved, the school is only obligated to administer the medication in accordance with a doctor's directions. As such, I release and hold Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House harmless from any losses, claims, liabilities, actions, causes of action, demands, damages, costs, fees, expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever in the event that any medication administered by Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not effective, exacerbates any reaction my child is having, or causes any adverse reactions.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Parents of Children without Food Related Allergies:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and will abide by the Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House Allergy Awareness Policy. I give permission for my child to attend Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House, understanding that Bryant Woods Montessori Children's House is not an allergen-free school.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_