

Anaphylaxis Information for Childcare Providers

Anaphylaxis is a severe and often sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when someone with allergies is exposed to something they are allergic to. Reactions usually begin within minutes and rapidly progress but can occur up to 2-3 hours later.

Anaphylaxis is potentially life-threatening, and always requires an immediate emergency response.

Please see the link below to Anaphylaxis Campaign website for more information

<https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/what-is-anaphylaxis/>

Childcare providers should:

- Obtain a copy of the child's care plan written by a specialist health professional. **This should be signed by the prescribing doctor/nurse practitioner.**
- Discuss the child's care plan with the parents/carers.
- Contact the specialist health professional who prescribed the adrenaline auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen) to discuss the care plan and procedures and if there is any training available.
- Ensure you have a setting health care plan and procedures in place that all staff are aware of that. These should be easily accessible in the setting, along with the individualised care plan, for quick reference.
Note: Adding a recent photo of the child can support quick recognition but remember confidentiality if it is displayed in an area accessible to anyone other than staff.
- Carry out your own risk assessment, consider what systems you have in place to keep the child safe, and respond if necessary, to any emergency, for instance:
 - Check when the child arrives, they have brought the adrenaline auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen) with them.
 - If the adrenaline auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen) is left at the setting that it is accessible and is regularly checked to ensure its in date **(it should be kept at room temperature and away from light).**

Anaphylaxis Campaign- <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/> has an online e-learning programme designed for childminders and staff in early years' settings called:

AllergyWise for Families and Carers of Pre-School Children

This free online e-learning course is designed for parents and carers of severely allergic preschool aged children and for early years providers. This course aims to improve and update your knowledge on the everyday management of severe allergies and to develop your understanding of how early years' providers can support children who have severe allergies.

Key facts

Costs: Free, optional certificate for £5 plus VAT

Type of course: Online e-learning

Time to complete: Approximately 45 minutes.

Designed for: Parents and carers of pre-school aged children with severe allergies, childminders, staff in early year's settings.

This is a useful way to learn about anaphylaxis, the risks of severe allergies and how to manage them. The courses can be worked through conveniently from your home or workplace, wherever and whenever it suits you. The courses are simple to follow with interactive diagrams and graphics which makes learning about anaphylaxis and teaching those around you easier than ever, no matter who you are or what you do,

Please see the link below for more information

<https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/information-training/allergywise-training/>

Allergy awareness week for 2021 is 24-31 May. <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/allergy-awareness-week-2021/>