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NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Please read this School policy carefully, and sign and return the acknowledgment form below. This policy can also be found in our Parent Handbook.

Nut allergies can be life-threatening. Several students currently enrolled in our school suffer from either peanut or tree nut allergies. There may be others who have nut allergies that have not yet been identified. These children may experience allergic reactions when exposed to products that contain peanuts or tree nuts.

While each child's case is unique, allergic reactions to nuts can range from the relatively mild (*i.e.*, hives, itchy rashes, swelling of the mouth, or nausea) to severe anaphylactic reactions which may cause tightening of the throat, shortness of breath, unsteady pulse, fainting and/or low blood pressure. A child may experience such reactions solely as the result of physical contact with the nut product or inhalation of airborne particles, and not just from actual consumption of the product. It is impossible to predict, in any given case, (i) what degree of exposure (*i.e.*, ingestion, inhalation) would trigger such a reaction, or (ii) how severe a reaction would be if a child is exposed.

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NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY: For the health and welfare of our students, the School has adopted the following guidelines:

PROHIBITED FOODS: Teachers, parents and students may not bring the following foods into the nursery school: raw (shelled or unshelled) peanuts; peanut butter; raw (shelled or unshelled) tree nuts, including cashews, almonds, pistachios, walnuts, filberts and pecans; and any baked goods which contain any of these types of nuts, whether externally or as an ingredient. For example, nut breads and cookies, brownies or cakes containing nuts, in any form, are prohibited.

PACKAGED AND PROCESSED FOODS: Parents should review the ingredient labels on any packaged or processed foods they intend to send to the School. Please do not send items that contain labels such as "processed in a plant that processes tree nuts and/or peanuts," or "may contain traces of nuts." This guideline applies for all food sent into the school, including, but not limited to, food sent for lunch, snack, Shabbat, birthday celebrations or any special occasion.

IN CLASS MONITORING: Students may not share or trade food at lunch time or at snack time. Students will be required to wash hands before and after every meal. If a student has a nut product off school premises, the child should wash his or her hands before entering the school.

NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY (continued)

PARENTAL ENFORCEMENT: The School has instituted this Nut Allergy Awareness Policy because we believe it is in the best interests of our students. It would be impossible, however, for the School Staff to monitor each and every food item brought by students into the School. The School is therefore relying on all parents to use their best efforts to comply with the guidelines set forth above to ensure the school is safe for all of our children. Finally, since each child's allergy situation is unique, it remains the responsibility of the parents of children of nut allergies to notify the school of the child's allergy, provide applicable written medical documentation, instructions and medication to the Early Childhood Director, to educate the child as to safe and unsafe foods, and to review classroom policies and procedures with the School and it's staff on an ongoing basis.

We understand that these limitations may cause some inconvenience for both parents and students. This policy will require all of us to exercise diligence in reading the labels of foods to be sent to the school. However, the safety of our students must come first. We ask for your cooperation and commitment to this policy. Finally, we expect the parents with children with nut allergies to retain the same level of diligence in protecting their children as maintained prior to the institution of this policy.

If you have any questions regarding the **NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY**, please contact our Director, Allison Tankel.

I have read the Nut Allergy Awareness Policy, acknowledge receipt of the information and agree to abide by the policy.

Child's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____