Pre-School Food Allergy Handbook

By Gina Mennett Lee and Laurel Francoeur

$34.95
Available from Amazon

Two national leaders in the food allergy community – one with a background in education and the other an attorney – have joined forces to produce an outstanding resource for the field of early education. Both of the authors have children with food allergies, and considerable experience developing and evaluating safe and inclusive food allergy management strategies for a variety of educational levels.

The handbook they have written is a comprehensive guide to best practice that should be in the hands of every pre-school professional. Explanations are clear and thorough, with detailed and thoughtful narrative background information as to what is unique about the pre-school setting, why specific policies are important, and exactly what they should contain.

Recommendations for an overall Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan deftly summarize the voluntary guidelines published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, with helpful suggestions for how to implement them to create a safe and healthy environment.

The book is filled with many tidbits of useful information, such as lists of how a child might describe a reaction, items in which allergens may be found and how to read food labels, that may seem commonplace to someone who has been dealing with food allergies for a long time, but eye-opening to a pre-school teacher who needs lots of prompts for how to be vigilant in order to keep a young child safe and prevent exposure to allergens.

There are helpful checklists for both parents and pre-school administrators, a review of relevant laws, and much more. The price of this publication may seem a bit high, but the advice and tools that it provides are truly priceless.

Resources on managing food allergies at school

PUBLICATIONS

The Food Allergy Book: What School Employees Need to Know Published by the National Education Association in English and Spanish. See: http://neahin.org/educator-resources/foodallergybook.html


WEBSITES
AllergyHome.org: See “Food Allergy Tools for Schools” at www.AllergyHome.org

Kids with Food Allergies Foundation, a division of AAFA, has school information at: http://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org/page/planning-for-school.aspx

Greenlaurel Solutions offers an on-line software program to create a customized school accommodation plan for a child with food allergy. See www.greenlaureldocuments.com.