

Announcement of Peanut and Tree Nut Policy

As we face a growing number of children dealing with food allergies and, specifically, potentially life-threatening peanut and tree nut allergies, Washington University Nursery School will be a peanut and tree nut free preschool beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. As a school dedicated to some of the youngest members of our community, we understand that many of our students are not old enough to make sound and safe decisions when it comes to what should go into their mouths and are less able to manage their allergies independently. Many preschool-aged children are not yet aware of potential food allergies. While our faculty and staff do an excellent job of sanitizing playing surfaces, toys, tables, and chairs and monitoring snacks and lunches brought into preschool, there are some children within our school who could have a serious life-threatening allergic reaction from contact with even a microscopic amount of the offending foods. **Therefore, we have decided to make Washington University Nursery School a peanut and tree nut (Brazil nuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, and hazelnuts) free school.**

All snacks served by the preschool will be peanut and tree nut free. We also ask that no peanut or tree nut products be brought into school. Foods that are sent in for lunch should be carefully checked to make sure they do not indicate that they "contain or may contain peanuts or tree nuts." Foods that are intended to be shared among the class must not "contain or possibly contain peanuts or tree nuts" nor may they be "made in a facility or on equipment that processes peanuts or tree nuts." We realize and regret this policy eliminates the sharing of homemade goodies, but the health and safety of all our students must take priority. Families can help ensure that our school stays peanut and tree nut free by reading packaging labels and reminding children not to share food with other children at school. Parents may also elect to send in a non-food treat (craft, game, or project) or visit the class as a guest reader as a safe and healthy alternative. The goal of this policy is to promote the wellness and safety of all students and limit any opportunity for any child to be exposed to foods that could harm him/her.

We appreciate your cooperation with this policy - the sacrifice of not having peanut or tree nut products in the school is a small one to make compared to the consequence a child with severe allergies could face.

If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Scheele,
Director of Washington University Nursery School.