



Boys & Girls Club of Oyster Bay-East Norwich
The Bahnik Youth Center
1 Pine Hollow Road, Oyster Bay, New York 11771 516-922-9285

Dear Parents/Guardians:

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: food allergies are a growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children - children who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way - must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. A major health issue such as this must be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of this Club to make the safety and well-being of our members our top priority.

Members that are currently attending the Boys & Girls Club of Oyster Bay-East Norwich have serious peanut allergies. A child with a serious peanut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a peanut-containing food. Therefore, we are putting the following safety guidelines into effect:

- **Please do not send any peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts or peanut butter to be eaten as snacks at the Club. We also cannot allow foods manufactured in a facility that processes nuts.**
- We will not be doing any projects that involve peanut butter.
- Birthday parties are a special time for children, but can be a difficult time for the food-allergic child. If you would like to send in baked goods, please be careful about the ingredients. Please list the ingredients on the outside of the package and when preparing "treats" please pay close attention to cross contamination in your kitchen. To prevent cross-contamination, it is necessary that cooking utensils and preparation surfaces be carefully washed after each food is touched. It would be especially helpful if you could let you a staff member in the office know a few days ahead of when you'd like to celebrate your child's birthday, so that the food-allergic child can provide his/her own safe treat.
- We will try to keep the food at holiday parties to a minimum. As with birthday parties, we must be extremely careful about the ingredients in all of the food items. Please do not enclose candy or other treats with holiday cards.
- If your child ate peanut butter for breakfast or lunch; we would greatly appreciate your making sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school. Water alone does not do the trick!

This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Club.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Rubin
Child Care Director