# Recently a Child Care Provider saved the life of a Three year old girl

# Would you know what to do?

A three year old girl enters her family child care program in the morning. Shortly after arriving she complains of having ear pain, a few minutes later she complains about some itching under her arms. She then begins to have repetitive vomiting, immediately followed by swelling of her hands and legs. The provider was able to recognize that this was a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

Would you know what to do?

Would you be able to comfortably and accurately administer the child’s EpiPen?

Thankfully, the child attended a program in which the child care provider was able to identify the symptoms of an allergic reaction and was able to carry out all the necessary steps to safely care for the child.

The child care provider was not only approved to administer medication, but also recently recertified her MAT certificate. The training covered information on how to recognize, respond, and direct instruction on how to correctly administer emergency medications.

Child care programs not authorized to administer medications may administer emergency medications. The emergency medications only include epinephrine auto-injector devices, diphenhydramine (Benadryl) when prescribed for use in combination with the epinephrine auto-injector, asthma inhalers, or nebulizers.

There are numerous misconceptions regarding the administration of emergency medications. It has been reported that many programs are not in compliance with the regulations and the requirements that must be met.

Caring for children with asthma, and allergies that may require the administration of medication is a serious responsibility.

You want to ensure the health and safety of children in your care, especially if they may require emergency medication.

**Having the medication in the program will not help a child if you do not know why, where, when, or how to administer the medication.**

If your program is not approved to administer medication and you care for children with special health care needs that may require the administration of emergency medication, it is highly recommended that you attend the new **“Emergency Medication Administration Including Stock Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**” Training. You will learn vital information regarding the care of children with asthma and allergies that require emergency medication. The training is scheduled on Thursday, November 9, 9:30 am – 12:00pm.

## You never know when it can happen to you…. Be prepared and save a child’s life!

This new training is also recommended for Programs that want to:

## Be able to stock non-child specific epinephrine auto-injectors

## Review information regarding the care of children with asthma and allergies

## Review the necessary/required parent permissions and health care provider instructions

## Receive direct instruction on how to administer emergency medication

## Obtain not only the necessary paperwork, but also use full resources

## OCFS and Medication Administration

The attached Dear Director & Dear Provider Letter from NYS Office of Children and Family Services includes information regarding emergency medication. The letter also notes that the authorization to administer medication to children in care is a benefit to parents and children, and a marketing plus for programs. It also provides information about Medication Administration Training.

The Council’s Resource and Referral Department has reported a significant increase in the calls from parents requesting programs that are approved to administer medications.

Click below to read – **Dear Provider Letter:**

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letterstoproviders/2015/October%20Provider.pdf>

Click below to read – **Dear Director Letter:**

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letterstoproviders/2015/October%20Director.pdf>

Click below to read – **MAT Brochure:**

<https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/downloadfiles/MAT/MAT_TRIFOLD_WEB.pdf>

Contact the Health Services Department to learn more about the MAT Course, emergency medication, and the benefits of becoming approved to administer medication.