

Asthma Policy

Asthma is a chronic (long-term) lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways. Asthma causes recurring periods of wheezing (a whistling sound when you breathe), chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing.

Asthma affects people of all ages, but it most often starts in childhood. It is an important condition affecting many children to varying degrees. One child in eleven in the UK has asthma so there are likely to be several children with the condition in every pre-school group.

These guidelines aim to promote a working partnership between all concerned to promote the safety, welfare and best interests of an asthmatic child attending the setting:

- we welcome all children with asthma
- encourage and help children with asthma to participate fully in activities
- ensure children have immediate access to reliever inhalers
- provide guidance for staff on what to do if a child had an asthma attack to ensure the child's welfare in the event of an emergency
- wherever possible staff will have access to appropriate asthma training
- key workers to recognise if a child's asthma symptoms are getting worse and what to do in the event of an emergency
- ensure that parents/carers of children with asthma are informed about the policy and given a copy

Procedure when a child with asthma attends the setting:

- discuss asthma symptoms with parents and the level or degree of the child's condition
- how to recognise when symptoms get worse – any triggers that the child is known to be sensitive to
- ensure children with asthma have immediate access to their reliever inhaler whenever they need it keeping it in an easily accessible place. Make sure all the relevant people especially the child, know where to find it
- ensure that clear written records are kept detailing information of what medicine is to be taken, when and how often
- inhaler must be prescribed for the child, labelled clearly with their full name
- ensure it has not passed its expiry date
- ensure that a record is kept each time a child takes their inhaler
- medication left in the setting must be checked regularly and parents informed if and when replacements are needed
- ask parents/carers to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at the group in case of emergency

- emergency contact details for next of kin but in the case on an emergency dial 999
- make sure the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take their medicines and to sign the form
- make sure that inhalers are always taken on group trips

Children with asthma can miss out socially however with the right support these children should be encouraged to participate to their limits. Our asthma policy outlines important issues around ensuring the safety of all children with asthma in the setting.