

MANAGING ASTHMA POLICY



Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management

MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 15% of children. It is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. Community education and correct asthma management will assist to minimise the impact of asthma. It is generally accepted that children under the age of six do not have the skills or ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, our centre recognises the need to educate its staff and families about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- That all staff members have completed first aid and emergency asthma management training approved by the Education and Care Services National Regulations at least every 3 years and is recorded, with each staff members' certificate held on the Service's premises.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the symptoms of an asthma attack, the child/children with this diagnosed medical condition in the service and the Asthma Action Plan to be followed in the event of an emergency
- That a copy of this policy is provided and reviewed during each new staff member's induction process.
- A copy of this policy will be provided to a parent or guardian of each child diagnosed with asthma at the service
- Ensure updated information, resources and support is regularly given to families for managing asthma
- Ensure that at least one staff member on the premises at all times has completed accredited asthma training (Emergency Asthma Management) as per the requirements of the Regulations
- Receive an Asthma Action Plan from families with a child diagnosed with asthma, prior to enrolment to be completed and signed by the child's registered medical practitioner.
- Ensure children diagnosed with asthma have a current action plan as well as prescribed medication on site at all times- without these, the child must not attend
- Ensure that Asthma first aid posters are displayed in key locations

Staff responsible for the child diagnosed with asthma shall:

- Ensure a copy of the child's emergency management plan is visible and known to staff in a service
- Follow the child's Asthma Action Plan in the event of an asthma attack

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- Increase supervision of a child at risk of having an asthma attack on special occasions such as excursions, incursions, parties etc.
- Ensure that an asthma action plan signed by the child's Registered Medical Practitioner and prescribed medications such as a reliever are provided by the parent/guardian for the child while at the service each day that they attend
- Ensure that the medication is stored in a location that is known to all staff, including relief staff; easily accessible to adults (not locked away); inaccessible to children; and away from direct sources of heat
- Regularly check and record the medication expiry date- request new medication from families when needed
- Provide information to the service community about resources and support for managing asthma in children

In the event that a child suffers from an asthma attack the centre and staff will:

- Follow the child's asthma action plan
- Suitably experienced and trained staff member (As per regulations) will commence first aid measures according to Asthma Action Plan
- Contact the parent/guardian
- Contact the emergency contact if the parents or guardian can't be contacted
- Call 000 for an ambulance if needed

In the event of a severe asthma attack, the Ambulance service will be contacted on 000 immediately and the 4 step Asthma Action Plan will be implemented until Ambulance officers arrive.

Parents/guardians of children shall:

- Inform staff at the children's service, either on enrolment or on diagnosis, of their child's asthma/medical condition
- Provide staff with an asthma action plan signed by the Registered Medical Practitioner giving written consent to use the prescribed medication in line with this action plan
- Provide staff with all prescribed medications relating to this medical condition
- Assist staff by offering information and answering any questions regarding their child's medical condition
- Notify the staff of any changes to their child's medical condition and provide a new management plan in accordance with these changes
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff, for example, any matter relating to the health of the child
- Comply with the service's policy that no child who has been prescribed medication for a diagnosed medical condition is permitted to attend the service or its programs without that medication
- Bring relevant issues to the attention of both staff and licensee

This policy was made with consideration to:

Education and Care National Regulations 2011 (Amendments 2014)
Child Care Services Act 2007

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Staying Healthy in Childcare

ACEQCA & National Quality Framework

Asthma Action Plan template – National Asthma Council of Australia

Asthma in Childcare – Asthma Australia