

Asthma Management

Review Date: 03/08/2019

Adapted with permission from Asthma Foundation of Victoria, Asthma and the Child in Care Model Policy, Version 6.2, January 2011.

Introduction

It is generally accepted that children under the age of six do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively.

With this in mind, our service recognises the need to educate its staff and families about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Goals – What are we going to do?

This *Asthma Policy* aims to:

- Raise awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the service;
- Implement strategies to support the health and safety of children and others with asthma enrolled at the service;
- Provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities; and
- Provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.

Strategies - How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Provide *Emergency Asthma Management Training* to all staff.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide staff with a copy of this policy and brief them on asthma procedures upon their appointment;
- Encourage and support all educators to complete accredited asthma training.
- Ensuring at least one staff member who has this qualification is on duty whenever children are present at the service;

- Identify children with asthma during the enrolment process and inform staff;
- Provide families thus identified with a copy of this policy and Asthma Action Plan upon enrolment or diagnosis; (*Asthma Action Plan* template can be downloaded from www.asthma.org.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=d-W_7r6MUrE%3d&tabid=282)
- Erect *Asthma Action Plans* with a photo for referral by staff including casual staff and volunteers/students with permission from the child's parent.
- Formalise and document the internal procedures for emergency *Asthma First Aid*;
- Ensure that an emergency *Asthma First Aid* poster (available from www.asthma.org.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=3vRlcsATxZw%3d&tabid=98) is displayed in the staff room;
- Ensure that the *First Aid Kit* contains a blue reliever medication (e.g. Airomir, Asmol, or Ventolin), a spacer device, face mask, concise written instructions on *Asthma First Aid* procedures and 70% alcohol swabs;
- Ensure that an accredited staff member correctly maintains the asthma component of the *First Aid Kit* (eg. regular checks of expiry dates on medication);
- Provide a mobile *Asthma First Aid Kit* for use on excursions;
- Encourage open communication between families and staff regarding the status and impact of a child's asthma; and
- Promptly communicate any concerns to families should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.

Staff will:

- Ensure that they maintain current accreditation in *Emergency Asthma Management* (valid for three years);
- Ensure that they are aware of other adults in the centre and children in their care with asthma;
- Ensure, in consultation with the family, the health and safety of each child through supervised management of the child's asthma;
- Identify and, where practical, minimise asthma triggers;
- Where necessary, modify activities in accordance with a child's needs and abilities;
- Ensure that all regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the child's written *Asthma Action Plan*;

- Administer emergency asthma medication if required according to the child's written *Asthma Action Plan*. If no written *Asthma Action Plan* is available the *Asthma First Aid Plan* outlined in this document should be followed immediately;
- Promptly communicate, to management or parents/guardians, any concerns should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities; and
- Ensure that children with asthma are treated the same as all other children.

Families will:

- Inform staff, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has a history of asthma;
- Provide all relevant information regarding their child's asthma via the written *Asthma Action Plan*, which should be provided to the centre within seven (7) days of enrolment;
- Notify the Nominated Supervisor, in writing, of any changes to the *Asthma Action Plan* during the year;
- Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including reliever) at all times, along with a spacer and face mask;
- Ensure that they comply with all requirements and procedures in relation to the Medications Record;
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to educators as the need arises (e.g. if asthma symptoms were present the previous evening); and
- Ensure, in consultation with the staff, the health and safety of their child through supervised management of the child's asthma.

Children will:

- Be supported to begin to recognise their symptoms and verbalise these.
- Wherever practical, be encouraged to seek their reliever medication as soon as their symptoms develop.

Adopted by the Management Committee

Signed by: Belinda Fayle

Date signed: 03/08/2017

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