



## Asthma Policy

We recognise the potential threats that come with being diagnosed with Asthma or breathing related difficulties. In consultation with the parents/carer a care plan will be devised to ensure that a child with this condition can receive the best possible care when in the Playgroup environment.

- Parents must inform the Playgroup if their child has asthma or uses an inhaler for breathing related difficulties. This should be recorded on their child's Medical Details form in their registration pack.
- If the child is newly diagnosed with the condition, parents must update their child's Medical Details form.
- Parents must detail whether or not their child will need to take their inhaler at certain times of the day and any other information important to their child's condition for example the types of triggers that a child experiences and what to do in the event of an asthmatic episode.
- Parents will always be informed when their child has experienced difficulties with their asthma or breathing.
- Children who use a reliever inhaler should always bring an inhaler to their sessions. Parents must inform us where this is kept.
- It is illegal for Playgroup to store and provide medication that has passed its expiry date.

### Procedure for children with diagnosed asthma

- The staff, together with the parents/carers of a child with asthma, will discuss and agree on a plan of action for the emergency management of an asthma attack.
- This plan should include action to be taken where the parent/carer has provided asthma medication, and in situations where this medication may not be available.

### Procedure for if a child suddenly collapses or has difficulty breathing with a possible asthma attack

#### **Children with a known asthma condition:**

- Staff will follow the agreed plan of action for the child for the emergency treatment of an asthma attack as detailed in their Asthma Action Plan.

If the child's Asthma Action Plan is NOT available, staff should immediately commence the standard asthma emergency protocol detailed below:

- Step 1: Sit the child upright and remain calm to reassure them.
- Step 2: Without delay shake a blue reliever puffer (inhaler) and give 4 separate puffs through a spacer. Use one puff at a time and ask the child to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
- Step 3: Wait 4 minutes. If there is no improvement repeat step 2.
- Step 4: If still no improvement after a further 4 minutes - call an ambulance immediately and state clearly that the child is "having an asthma attack."
- Continuously repeat steps 2 and 3 whilst waiting for the ambulance.



**Procedure for children not known to have pre-existing asthma:**

In this situation, staff will:

- Step 1: Call an ambulance and state that the child is having breathing difficulties.
- Step 2: Sit the child upright and calm them to reassure them
- Contact parents/carers of the situation

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