

Health and Wellbeing

Asthma Policy

Statutory Framework for the Early Years

Quote Reference: 3:44

'The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and /or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.'

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure all children accessing the Family Centre who have asthma can do so safely, and are encouraged and supported to participate fully in all the activities provided.

We aim to:

- Provide an inclusive environment where children's understanding of the triggers, symptoms and treatment for asthma supports their acceptance and alertness, to avoid any stigma or misconceptions attached to the condition.

Guidance

Asthma is a condition that affects the child's airways. Asthma symptoms include coughing, wheezing, a tight chest, and getting short of breath. However not every child will get all these symptoms.

Children with asthma have airways that are almost always red and sensitive (inflamed). These airways can react badly when someone with asthma has a cold or other viral infection or comes into contact with an asthma trigger. Common triggers include colds, viral infections, house-dust mites, pollen, cigarette smoke, furry or feathery pets, exercise, air pollution, laughter and stress.

Medication and Control

Asthma varies in severity. Avoiding known triggers where appropriate and taking the correct medication can usually control asthma effectively.

There are several medications used to treat asthma. Some are for long term prevention others relieve symptoms when they occur (although they may also prevent symptoms if they are used in anticipation of a trigger).

Asthma medication is usually given through the use of inhalers, and the use of a spacer device for small children to administer a dose. For young children the inhaler will be administered by a staff member. As soon as the child is able, they will be encouraged and supported to administer their inhaler themselves, which will be supervised by an adult. The individual needs of each child and the amount of assistance they require to receive their asthma medication will differ. Staff are encouraged to offer assistance to each child which mirrors what the parent does in the home.

Asthma Attacks / Symptoms

Common signs of an asthma attack are: -

- Coughing;
- Shortness of breath;
- Wheezing;
- Chest tightness;
- Recession on neck and ribs;
- Being unusually quiet;
- Being pale and lethargic;
- Difficulty in talking and/or walking.

If a child has an Asthma Attack Family Centre staff are required to follow the procedure outlined in the in the Child's Asthma Management Care Plan as appropriate to the child.

What you should do

- Inform us if your child has asthma when you decide you wish to access a place at the Family Centre or as soon as your child is diagnosed with asthma if they are already accessing a place.
- Understand that Family Centre staff cannot administer medication if it has not been diagnosed by a doctor.
- Support the development of a care plan (in case of a Bespoke plan this will be in conjunction with a Health Professional)
- Inform staff as soon as possible if your child's condition changes
- Provide a spare labelled inhaler to be kept on site in case the inhaler brought to setting on a daily basis is forgotten/ runs out.

What we will do

- Ensure all staff and children have a good understanding of asthma, the triggers, symptoms and treatments.
- Gather information and consent from parents/carers on the parent/carer contract to support the type of care plan to be put in place.
- Train staff in first aid and the administering of medication which includes information on administering medications for asthma.
- Develop and review a care plan appropriate to the complexity of each child's condition so staff and parents and carers are confident in the support their child will receive both day to day and in an emergency situation.
- Regularly check the spare inhaler to ensure it is within its use by date, informing parents/carers well in advance of the date it needs replacing.
- Ensure if the setting is evacuated in the case of an incident, fire or suspicious package that asthma medication is kept with the child.