

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10-15% of children in Australia. 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 service recognises the need to educate educators and families about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Regulations	90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 178, 181, 182, 183, 184
National Quality Standard	2.1, QA6
Other Service Policies/Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Handbook• Educator Handbook• Individual Medical Management Plans• Individual Medical Risk Minimisation Plans• Enrolment, Orientation and Bookings policy• Dealing with Medical Conditions & Administration of Medication policy• Providing a Child Safe Environment policies• Management of Incident, Injury, Illness & Trauma policy
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disability Discrimination Act (1975)• NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1977)• Work Health & Safety Act (2011)• My Time, Our Place

PROCEDURES

a) The Nominated Supervisor/Directors will:

- Ensure that all permanent educators 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 educator's certificate held on the service's premises

- Ensure that educators are aware of the symptoms of an asthma attack, the 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 and reviewed during each new educator induction process
- A copy of this policy will be provided to families 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 educator on the premises always has completed accredited asthma training as per the requirement of the Regulations
- Provide an Asthma Action Plan to families with a child diagnosed with asthma, prior to enrolment to be completed and signed by the child's registered medical practitioner and returned before enrolment commences at the service
- Ensure children diagnosed with asthma have a current action plan. Without this, the child must not attend.
- Ensure that asthma first aid posters are displayed in key locations
- Ensure that the medication is stored in a location that is know to all educators, including relief educators, easily accessible to adults (not locked away), inaccessible to children, and away from direct sources of heat
- Ensure that all first aid kits have one reliever puffer and spacer
- Regularly checks 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

b) Educators will:

- Follow the child's Asthma Action Plan in the event of an asthma attack
- If a child suffers from an asthma attack whilst at the service:
 - Follow the child's asthma action plan
 - Suitably experienced and trained educators will commence first aid measures according to the 4-step asthma action plan
 - Contact the family
 - Contact the emergency contact if the parent/caregiver 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

c) Families will:

- Inform educators at the service, either on enrolment or on diagnosis of their child's asthma/medical condition
- Provide educators with a asthma action plan signed by their registered medication practitioner giving written consent to use the prescribed medication in line with this action
- Assist educator of any changes to their child's medical condition and provide a new management plan accordance with these changes
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to educators, 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 program without that medication
- Bring relevant issues to the attention of the Nominated Supervisor on duty and the approved provider.