

Asthma Policy

This document includes information on the implementation and operation of this policy. It has been provided to assist the Management Team when adopting this policy and when addressing the management of asthma within the setting. In situations where the Management Team is considering making changes to this policy it is recommended that they consult with:

<http://www.asthma.org.uk/Sites/healthcare-professionals/pages/schools-and-early-years>

At the time of writing this Policy Document, prescription-only medicines cannot be prescribed to childcare settings or schools in order for them to keep in their first aid supplies. Should these regulations reverse this Policy Document will be updated.

RATIONALE

Asthma is a chronic health condition. It is a common reason for childhood admission to hospital. 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 and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, The Green Umbrella Day Nursery recognises the need to educate its staff and parents/carers about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

AIMS

This Asthma Policy aims to:

- Raise the awareness of asthma amongst those involved with children.
- Provide the necessary strategies to ensure the health and safety of all persons with asthma within the setting.
- Provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities
- Provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.

OUR COMMITMENT

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility. To this end, all staff within the nursery will give the following undertakings:

The Management (Nursery Manager and Deputy Manager) will:

- Provide staff with a copy of this Asthma Policy and the Asthma First Aid Sheet (How to deal with an asthma attack) and brief them on asthma procedures on initial induction.
- Provide Emergency Asthma Management training to staff and ensure at least one staff member who has completed Paediatric First Aid training (including accredited asthma training) is on duty whenever children are being cared for.
- Identify children with asthma during the registration process and inform staff.
- Provide parents with children with asthma a copy of the Asthma Policy, Asthma First Aid Sheet and ask them to complete an Asthma Card upon registration.
- Store one copy of the Asthma Card with the child's registration pack and another copy with the child's medication.
- Revise when required the internal procedures for emergency Asthma First Aid.
- Ensure that an accredited staff member maintains children's asthma medication held on site, keeping up to date with expiry dates and asking parents/carers for replacements when medicines have expired.
- Promptly communicate any concerns to parents should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.

Staff will:

Ensure that First Aiders who are required to hold a Paediatric First Aid Certificate maintains this and updates when required (valid for three years).

- Ensure that they are aware of the children in their care with asthma.
- Ensure that they know where all children's medication is stored on the premises.
- Ensure, in consultation with the parents/carers, the health and safety of each child through supervised management of the child's asthma.
- Identify and, where practical minimise asthma triggers (example: use aerosol sprays away from children).
- 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 Asthma Care and Asthma First Aid Sheet.
- Administer emergency asthma medication if required according to the child's written Asthma Card. If no written Asthma Card is available the Asthma First Aid Sheet outlined in this document should be followed immediately.
- Promptly communicate to management and parents/carers, any concerns should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.
- Ensure that children with asthma are treated the same as all other children.

Parents/carers will:

- Inform staff, either upon registration or on initial diagnosis, that their child has been diagnosed as having asthma by a medical professional.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the child's asthma by completing an Asthma Card which should be provided to the nursery 5 days prior to the child's first attendance.
- Notify the Nursery Manager in writing immediately of any changes to their child's 'Asthma Action Plan' which should have been supplied by their GP's practice at diagnosis.
- Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of in date appropriate asthma medication, including spacer and mask **permanently** on site. This medication should be a spare for use at nursery only.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff as the need arises (e.g. if asthma symptoms were present the previous evening).
- Ensure, in consultation with the staff, the health and safety of their child through supervised management of the child's asthma.

An individual Child's Asthma First Aid Kit should contain:

- Blue or Brown reliever puffer (inhaler).
- A spacer device that is compatible with the puffer. This may be a large volume spacer (e.g. Volumatic) or a small volume spacer with a removable mask.
- A face mask compatible with the spacer for use by children under the age of 5.
- A copy of the child's Asthma Card and a copy of the Asthma First Aid Sheet.
- 70% alcohol swabs for cleaning of devices.

Related Documents: **Asthma Card**
 Asthma First Aid Sheet

All policy documents are subject to regular review
This policy was reviewed: December 2014