

**BAINS ROAD PRESCHOOL
ASTHMA POLICY**

Updated 11/02/14

REVIEWED 11/11/15

Values

Bains Road Preschool is committed to:

- Raising the awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the children at Bains Road Preschool.
- Providing the necessary procedures to ensure the health and safety of all students & staff with asthma at Bains Road Preschool.
- Providing an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to their full potential
- Providing a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to document strategies for implementation of best practice asthma management within a DECS setting so that:

- All children enrolled at the service who have asthma can receive appropriate attention as required

- A service can respond to the needs of children who have not been diagnosed with asthma and who have an asthma attack or difficulty breathing at the service

Our Commitment

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility of families & staff. To this end each of the key groups within this service give the following undertakings:

Kindy staff will

- Provide all staff with a copy of the Asthma Policy and brief them on asthma procedures upon induction to Bains Road Preschool.
- Provide an Asthma Care plan (Medical professional to complete form) to all families of children with asthma upon enrolment. The completed Asthma Care Plan is to be returned promptly by family, reviewed annually and kept in a central location.
- Ensure that all staff are informed of the children with asthma in their care.
- Formalize and document the internal procedures for Asthma First Aid, for both: children with a diagnosis of asthma, and those with no known diagnosis of asthma (first attack).
- Ensure that the Asthma Emergency Kit contains a blue reliever puffer (e.g. Airomir, Asmol, Epaq or Ventolin), a spacer device and child mask if necessary and concise written instructions on Asthma First Aid procedures.
- Provide a mobile Asthma Emergency Kit for use on excursions.

- 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
- .Ensure that all regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the Child's Asthma Care Plan.
- Administer emergency asthma medication if required according to the child's Asthma Care Plan.
- Regularly maintain all asthma components of the first aid kit to ensure all medications are current and any asthma devices are cleaned after each use and ready to use.

- **Families will:**

- Inform staff, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has a history of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the child's asthma via the Asthma Care Plan as provided by the child's doctor.
- Notify the staff, in writing, of any changes to the Asthma Care Plan during the year.
- Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate medication (reliever) and spacer device clearly labeled with the child's name including expiry dates.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns with staff as the need arises e.g. if asthma symptoms were present during the night.

Asthma First Aid:

Emergency Procedure if a child has an asthma attack within Bains Road Preschool.

Any case where a child is having an asthma attack, the staff should immediately:

Administer Asthma First Aid according to:

- The Child's Asthma Care First Aid Plan as signed by the family and doctor and/or doctor's written instructions AND

Call an ambulance (Dial 000) and notify the family.

If a child has difficulty in breathing and there is no notification on any written communication from the parents / guardian about him / her having asthma call an ambulance immediately, follow the Asthma First Aid Plan and contact the parents immediately. No harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer to someone with asthma.

- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.

Asthma First Aid Plan

Step 1: Sit the child upright and remain calm and provide reassurance. Do not leave the child alone.

Step 2: Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever (Airomir, Asmol, Epaq or Ventolin), one puff at a time, through a spacer device. Ask the child to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.

Step 3: Wait 4 minutes.

Step 4: If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3. If there is still little or no improvement, call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000). Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.

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In an emergency the blue reliever puffer can be accessed from the Asthma Emergency Kit, or borrowed from another child. No harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer to someone without asthma.