



BAINS ROAD PRESCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY

Updated 11/02/16

REVIEWED 11/02/17

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.

-

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.



Nut Aware Policy

Bains Road Preschool is a “Nut Aware” Kindergarten Facility

Purpose:

- To provide a safe environment for all members of the Bains Road PreSchool community
- To raise awareness of all parents, children and staff regarding severe nut allergies

Management:

- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to kindergarten with their child that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes, peanut paste products, peanut/satay sauce, nut biscuits, Nutella/chocolate spread, crushed nuts on cakes/buns, baklava or other nut pastries, nuts in salads, muesli bars containing nuts, nougat, any other product with nuts as a usual ingredient, as well as foods containing nuts
- Children will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating
- Children will be encouraged NOT to share food at healthy snack/lunch time
- Staff will supervise children eating at healthy snack/lunch time and remove any inappropriate food items, sending a note home to parents/caregivers advising them of the issue

- No nut products to be included in food on special food days or on excursions (eg, end of term BBQ's, breakfasts, or in any cooking activities at kindergarten)
- All staff will participate in training from Red Cross in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) on a regular basis

Promotion:

- Parents and caregivers are informed via the Healthy Food Policy being distributed to all families at enrolment time
- Governing Council are informed
- Staff are aware of specific children via photographs/information in the staff common room/kitchen area, and in the children's personal files held in the Director's office
- Education, information and procedures are part of staff induction
- All staff are in charge of Epi-pens and medication (these treatments will be supplied by the parent/caregiver)
- Staff are required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on excursions
- Teachers re-educate children at “mat time” at the start of each term, to help the children to choose appropriate foods to bring along for healthy snack/lunch times
- Children and families are informed of any changes to the Nut Aware Policy as they occur via letters distributed to families and via items in the newsletter

Anaphylaxis Action Plans

The Director will obtain specific medical information from the family at the time of enrolling a child with a “nut allergy” (eg. an Anaphylaxis Action Plan being provided by a medical practitioner)

This will include:

- Clear photo of the child
- Documentation of the allergic triggers
- Documentation of the first aid response and prescribed medication(s)
- Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan

The Anaphylaxis Action Plan will need to be reviewed every 12 months. It is the responsibility of the parents or caregivers to advise the Director or kindergarten staff of any changes to the child’s symptoms or medications in the interim, via a doctor’s letter.

Definition of Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes; either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure

where there is food being brought in from outside sources. Therefore, we have opted to be a Nut “Aware” facility.

Advice from the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy recommends minimising the risk of food-induced anaphylaxis in schools/kindergartens by:

- Obtaining medical information
- Education of carers
- Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers
- Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies

** This kindergarten facility acknowledges that, due to food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment