



ASTHMA POLICY

Member of staff responsible	Jenny Watson
Committee member responsible	Steph Gattenby (chair)
Date agreed with staff	
Date agreed at Committee	
Signed on behalf of Committee	
Print name & date	
Frequency of policy review	Biennial
Date next review due	May 2012

Document Version Control

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of changes
1.0	May 2009	Checked against PSLA guidelines
1.1	May 2010	Policy reviewed small amendment

Statement of Intent

Asthma is an important condition affecting 10-15% of children. We positively welcome all children with asthma. This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Science, the National Asthma Campaign and the local education authority.

EYFS Key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.2 Inclusive practice 1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as partners 2.4 Key person	3.2 Supporting every child	

Induction

During the induction process, parents will have the opportunity to explain their child's needs and appropriate support will be offered. They will be asked to complete a consent form for staff to assist their child with administering medication if necessary.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of children will be kept in the pre-school room in a designated box. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent and parents are responsible for checking the inhaler's expiry date and that it has not run out. Pre-school staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however all our staff have agreed to supervise the use of inhalers. ***All staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.***

The Pre-School Environment

The Pre-school does all that it can to ensure the environment is favourable to children with asthma. The Pre-school does not keep furry or feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy.

Asthma Attacks

The Pre-school follows the following procedure in the event of an asthma attack:

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
2. Stay calm and reassure the child
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened

The child's parents will be called immediately at the onset of an attack, because of the age of the child.

During an asthmatic emergency the following procedures are followed:

1. Keep calm. Talk to the child, reassure them that they will be helped and looked after.
2. Give the child space to breathe. If possible, clear other children from the area.
3. Allow the child to find a comfortable position. Do **not** insist that they lie down; they will probably feel more comfortable sitting upright.
4. Use reliever inhaler, give two puffs. (One puff to child every five breaths they take.)
5. If child's respiration rate returns to normal, continue to observe him/her closely and inform parents.
6. If the child becomes more distressed or the situation becomes more serious, give two more puffs of reliever and call an ambulance (999), state clearly "**ASTHMATIC ATTACK**". Stay with child, using the routine of one puff of reliever to every five breaths and continue to administer the inhaler until the child's condition improves or further help arrives.
7. Try and keep a note of the time of the attack and the number of 'puffs' of inhaler given prior to the ambulance/parents arriving.
8. **NEVER** use a paper bag to treat an asthmatic attack.

At all times staff will trust their instincts when dealing with an incident of this nature. They will not hesitate to call for help if they are worried about the condition of a child experiencing an asthmatic attack.