

Mad Hatters

Asthma Policy

This policy has been devised so that all children at Mad Hatters who have asthma can receive appropriate attention as required, and all staff to can respond to an asthma attack in all diagnosed and undiagnosed children with asthma.

The Management Will:

- Identify all children with asthma upon enrolment at Mad Hatters.
- Seek written permission from parents/carers to administer emergency aid in the event of an asthma attack whilst in the care of the nursery.
- Ensure all staff are aware of the Asthma Policy.
- Provide training for all staff on Asthma and administering emergency aid.
- Encourage communication between parents/carers and nursery about the status and impact of a child's asthma.
- Communicate any concerns regarding a child's asthma to the parents/carers.
- Identify any asthma triggers and where appropriate minimise these.
- Keep all inhalers properly labelled and kept in the office so they are readily available if needed.
- Will inform parents/carers immediately if a child has an asthma attack whilst at nursery.

Staff Will:

- Ensure they are aware of any children in their care with asthma.
- Ensure they maintain current Asthma First Aid training.
- Identify any asthma triggers and where appropriate minimise these.
- Ensure they are aware where all inhalers and medication is kept.
- Encourage communication between parents/carers and nursery about the status and impact of a child's asthma.
- Communicate any concerns regarding a child's asthma to the parents/carers.
- Immediately inform either the Manager or Deputy if a child suffers an asthma attack whilst at nursery.

Families Will:

- Inform the staff either upon enrolment or initial diagnosis that their child has a history of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the child's asthma.
- Notify staff in writing of any changes to the information given regarding a child's asthma.
- Communicate any concerns or other relevant information regarding a child's asthma when the need arises.
- Replace inhalers and medication when necessary.

Treatment of an Asthma Attack

There are two types of treatment:

1. Relievers – this is treatment which gives relief in about 5 minutes by opening up the airways when the symptoms of asthma appear. This is usually a blue inhaler and can be given every four hours.
2. Preventatives – these are taken regularly to decrease the sensitivity of air passages. These inhalers are usually brown and should not be used during an asthma attack.

What to do if a child has an asthma attack

1. Signs and symptoms:

- Difficulty with breathing out
- Wheezing
- Speaking with difficulty
- Distress and anxiety
- Blueness of skin

2. Treatment and action:

Stay calm and reassure the child but do not put your arm around the child's shoulder as this is very restrictive.

Ensure that the reliever medicine (blue) is taken – this should help the child to breathe. It is not recommended to lie the children down, however encourage the child to sit down in an upright position.

Ensure a good supply of fresh air – *but not cold air*

CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY IF:

- The reliever has no effect after 5 to 10 minutes
- The child looks blue
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child collapses
- If you have any doubts about the child's condition

After the attack

The parents should be informed after the attack.