



## Asthma Policy and Procedure

### Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: 3.43-3.44

This policy has been written in line with information provided from Asthma UK. Forest Park Day Nursery and Pre-school recognises that asthma is a common condition affecting 10-15% of children and will not exclude any child with asthma from the Nursery.

We will support children with asthma in all aspects of nursery life and encourage them to reach their full potential. This policy ensures all staff members; new and existing, receive relevant training regarding asthma and administering emergency medication.

When a child with asthma joins Forest Park Day Nursery and pre-school or an existing child is diagnosed with the condition, the Manager and the SENCO will arrange a meeting with the parents/guardians to establish how the child's asthma may affect their nursery life. This will include the implications for learning, playing and social development. A nurse may also attend the meeting to talk through any concerns the family or staff may have.

#### Record Keeping

During the meeting the SENCO will agree and complete a record of the child's asthma, learning and health needs. This document may include such issues as agreeing to administer medicines and any staff training needs. This record will be agreed by the parents/guardians, the health professional (if present) and the SENCO. This form will be kept safe and updated when necessary. Staff will be notified of any changes in the child's condition through regular staff briefings; making staff aware of any special requirements.

#### Medicines

All parents/ guardians of children with asthma **MUST** give us information about their child's medication. Parents/guardians need to complete an asthma card, which will be kept in the Office for our records. From this information the nursery keeps its asthma register.

If the child's medication changes parents/guardians **MUST** inform the setting. Please Note; if a child with asthma was dropped off at nursery without their inhaler, we reserve the right to refuse childcare until that child has their medication with them. This is for the safety of that child.

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their own reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/guardian, doctor and key person agree they are mature and capable enough. Before such a time, a reliever inhaler will be kept in the room in a readily accessible place to an adult but out of a child's reach, depending on the child's needs. Reliever inhalers are taken with the children when they go on any outings. All reliever inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians will be informed upon collection if their child has had their medication or had an attack.

## **ALL STAFF WILL ALLOW CHILDREN TO TAKE THEIR MEDICATION WHEN THEY NEED TO**

### **First Aid**

#### **IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK**

1. It is important to be calm and reassuring.
2. Deal with the child wherever the attack occurs. (A change of air can make the problem worse.)
3. Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately. Spacers can often help.
4. Encourage the child to breathe slowly and deeply and loosen any tight clothing. Encourage breathing through the nose and out of the mouth. (this warms the air, which helps the airways to relax and for normal breathing to resume)
5. Assist the child to sit in a position that is most comfortable. This can often be leaning forward with arms resting on the back of a chair.
6. Do not lay a child who is having an asthma attack down, as this can restrict the airways and make the attack much worse.

A mild asthma attack should ease within around 3 minutes. IF it does not, encourage the child to take their inhaler again.

#### **IMPORTANT**

- IF after 5 minutes there is little or no improvement
- OR the asthma attack becomes worse
- OR Breathlessness makes breathing difficult
- OR the child is becoming exhausted

**Call for an ambulance on 999 or 112.** Parents/guardians should then be contacted to inform them of the situation.

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in nursery. When they feel better they can return to their play and nursery activities.

#### **Learning and Behaviour**

Physical Development is an essential part of nursery life and children's development. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully. All staff members are aware of which children in nursery have asthma and they will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise or weather, to take their reliever inhaler before going outside.

#### **Nursery Environment**

We are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that the nursery environment is favourable to children with asthma. The nursery has a strict non-smoking policy and is aware of the effects of keeping pets. Therefore, no furry or fluffy pets are kept within the nursery rooms.