



Written By

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Aim

The Preschool will facilitate effective care and health management of children with asthma, and the prevention and management of acute episodes of illness and medical emergencies.

The prevalence of asthma in children in Australia is about 25%, however only 16% have asthma that requires regular treatment. Many of these will have mild asthma, which is controlled with a salbutamol inhaler. There is some evidence that children in care who have asthma are more likely to have symptoms from their asthma which may be related to increased incidence of respiratory infections or to exposure to indoor allergens.

Practices

To facilitate effective care for a child with asthma, preschools should:

- Ensure families provide information on the child's health, medications, allergies, their doctor's name, address and phone number, emergency contact names and phone numbers, and an Asthma Action Plan approved by their doctor (displayed in the office and in the child's individual allergy buddy pack located behind the kitchen door), during enrolment and prior to the child starting in the service. Families will work with Educators to develop an Asthma Attack Risk Assessment.
- Ensure Preschool staff have been trained by an appropriate health professional in the administration of routine asthma medication, such as with an inhaler, spacer, similar device, or a nebuliser, in the routine or non-emergency management of a child with asthma.
- In any case where a child is having an acute asthmatic attack, the Preschool staff member who has undergone training by a Registered Training Organisation in the management of an acute asthma attack should immediately administer first aid or emergency medical treatment according to either:
 - the child's Asthma Action Plan or the Kids' First Aid for Asthma Chart or,
 - a doctor's instructions or,
 - dial 000 for an ambulance and notify the families in accordance with the Regulation and guidelines on emergency procedures (see Incident, Injury and Trauma Policy).
- In respect to administering Asthma medication refer to and complete a Medication Authority Form
- If an asthma attack escalates to a medical emergency refer to and complete a Medication Authority Form and an Accident Record Form
- In the case where a school aged child requires routine management of their Asthma, Preschool staff may permit the child to self-administer the medication, under supervision of trained staff.
- Ensure at least one staff member who has completed accredited training in Emergency Asthma Management is present in the Preschool at all times whenever children with asthma are being cared for in the service.

- Be aware of aspects of the indoor environment that may be triggers for asthma in children, which include:
 - house dust mite, which is more prevalent in an environment with carpet, rugs, upholstered furniture and fluffy toys,
 - flowering plants, mildew and mould,
 - domestic chemicals such as pesticides, cleaning agents, bleach and chlorine agents, deodorants, room sprays, perfumes, paints, food preservatives,
 - hobby chemicals such as glues, solvents and paints,
 - dust from animals, pets and birds,
 - dust from pest infestations, especially cockroaches, mice and rats.
- Reduce exposure of children and staff to indoor allergens by:
 - regularly vacuuming (at least once weekly) carpet, rugs, upholstered furniture and fluffy toys,
 - regularly shampooing carpet, rugs and upholstered furniture and washing fluffy toys,
 - regularly dry cleaning blankets, doonas and other bedclothes,
 - treating and preventing growth of mould and mildew indoors and in clothing, linen and bed clothes,
 - when using chemical sprays such as pesticides and cleaning agents, spraying when children are not present in the immediate vicinity,
 - controlling pest infestations, especially cockroach,
 - minimising keeping pets indoors and ensuring they are in a clean and healthy condition,
 - using dust resistant mattress and pillow covers.

Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standard

Resources & References

Education and Care National Regulations.
The National Quality Standard (2010).
Being, Belonging and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (2009).
The Australasian Society for Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) has an on-line site for information for the general community and health and care professionals on a wide range of issues relating to asthma and allergy, available at: <http://www.allergy.org.au>
National Asthma Council Australia – www.nationalasthma.org.au

Relevant Documentation

- This policy is displayed in the Preschool and will be provided as part of Bermagui Preschool Induction Procedure.
- It is available in the Policies and Procedures folder and on the Preschool website
- Kids' First Aid for Asthma Chart
- Asthma Action Plan
- Medication Authority Form
- Accident Record Form
- Asthma Attack Risk Assessment

Date Adopted:

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