



WILMINGTON KINDERGARTEN

Asthma Policy

From our philosophy:

At Wilmington Kindergarten we aim to provide a safe and secure environment in which quality preschool education is provided through a partnership between children, families, staff, communities and the Department of Education and Child Development. We believe in the importance of our work with young children during a vital period of learning and development and work to support the development of communication and language, alongside physical, social and emotional capacities, health and wellbeing in the knowledge that early childhood experiences have the power to shape positive futures.

Inclusive practice involves celebrating diversity and maintaining high expectations for all children.

Staff respect the home culture, language, history, traditions and practices of every child. We believe in the capacity of all children to succeed, regardless of their diverse circumstances and abilities.

Statement

Asthma affects 2 million Australians: 1 in 9 children and 1 in 10 adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

At Wilmington Kindergarten we aim to manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Guidelines

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Staff members are required to maintain a current Asthma Training Certificate.
- Information about the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks will be displayed in the kitchen and parent corner.

Implementation

1. All students with asthma must have a current written asthma management plan completed by their doctor or paediatrician.
2. Asthma plans will be placed in the medication folder in the office.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate, labelled asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at the preschool at all times.
4. The preschool will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all first-aid kits, including kits on excursions and camps.
5. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in the asthma bag, along with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks.
6. Staff members will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
7. All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.

8. Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
9. Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.
10. If no plan is available children are to:
 - a) be sat down in an upright position (staff to remain calm)
 - b) be reassured
 - c) be administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister- Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl**, Epaq or Ventolin) delivered via a spacer* - one puff at a time, inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff
 - **Bricanyl is not used with a spacer
 - *Use blue puffer on its own if there is no spacer
 - d) wait 4 minutes
 - e) if there is little or no improvement repeat steps c) and d).
 - f) if there is still little or no improvement call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000). Continue to repeat steps c) and d) while waiting for the ambulance.
12. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
13. Students who are treated with a reliever puffer will have their name and dose recorded in the first aid book.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle plan.

Referenced:

DECS Staying Healthy in Childcare

DECS Administrative and Information and Guidelines "Student Matters"

www.asthmasa.org.au

Signed.....

Preschool Director

Wilmington Kindergarten

Signed.....

Chairperson

Governing Council

Ratified:

Reviewed: