

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Providers must promote the good health of the children and take appropriate actions when they are ill.

6.7 Asthma



Policy statement

We provide an environment in which all children with asthma can participate in order to realise their full potential.

- All children diagnosed with asthma receive appropriate attention as required.
- We respond to the needs of children who have not been diagnosed with asthma who have an asthma attack at the setting.
- We provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.

Procedures

- Where appropriate, the setting manager will organise Emergency Asthma Management training for staff/volunteers.
- Where appropriate, the setting manager will organise asthma management information sessions for parents/carers of children enrolled at the setting.
- The staff manager will encourage open communication between parents/carers and staff/volunteers regarding the status and impact of a child's asthma.

The staff should:

- Ask all parents/carers as part of the enrolment procedure, to inform us prior to their child's attendance at the setting, whether the child has diagnosed asthma and document this information on the child's registration record.
- Compile a list of children with asthma and place it in a secure but readily accessible location, which is known to all staff.
- Ensure that asthma components are included in the First Aid Kit taken on any activities outside the setting.
- Consult with the parent/guardians of children with asthma, in relation to the health and safety of their child and the supervised management of the child's asthma.

- Identify and, where possible, minimise asthma triggers as defined in the definition section of the policy or in children's Asthma Action Plans.
- Promptly communicate any concerns to parents if it is considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.
- Where necessary, modify activities for the child with asthma in accordance with their current needs and abilities.
- Administer all regular prescribed asthma medication in accordance with the Medication & Medication Book.
- Discuss with the parent/guardian the requirements of the Medication & Accident Book and what is needed for their child.

Parents/carers of a child should:

- Inform staff, by completing the registration document before their child starts at the setting that their child has a history of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the child's asthma via an Asthma Action Plan.
- Notify the staff, in writing, of any changes to the information they entered on the Asthma Action Plan during the year, if this occurs.
- Provide an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication and equipment (e.g. blue reliever medication and spacer) for their child at all times.
- Enter the required information in the Medication Folder at the beginning of each term or when necessary.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff as the need arises (e.g. if asthma symptoms were present the previous night).
- Consult with the staff, in relation to the health and safety of their child and the supervised management of the child's asthma

Plan of action for a child with diagnosed asthma

The staff, together with the parents/carers of a child with asthma, will discuss and agree on a plan of action for the emergency management of an asthma attack.

This plan should include action to be taken where the parent/carer has provided asthma medication, and in situations where this medication may not be available.

As part of developing a particular plan of action, it may be appropriate to consider staff receiving Emergency Asthma Management training.

Action to be taken if a child suddenly collapses or has difficulty breathing with a possible asthma attack

Children with a known asthma condition: Staff will follow the agreed plan of action for the child for the emergency treatment of an asthma attack as detailed in the Asthma Action Plan. If the child's Asthma Action Plan is **NOT** available, staff should immediately commence the **standard asthma emergency protocol** detailed below:

Step 1: Sit the child upright and remain calm to reassure them. Do not lie them down.

Step 2: Without delay shake a blue reliever puffer (inhaler) and give 4 separate puffs through a spacer. Use one puff at a time and ask the child to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.

Step 3: Wait 4 minutes. If there is no improvement repeat step 2.

Step 4: If still no improvement after a further 4 minutes - call an ambulance immediately and state clearly that the child is "having an asthma attack."

Continuously repeat steps 2 and 3 whilst waiting for the ambulance.

Children who staff are not aware have pre-existing asthma: In this situation, staff will:

Step 1: Call an ambulance and state that the child is having breathing difficulties.

Step 2: Sit the child upright and calm them to reassure them

Definitions

Metered Dose Inhaler (puffer): Common delivery device used to administer reliever medication.

Asthma Emergency: The onset of unstable or deteriorating asthma symptoms requiring immediate treatment with reliever medication.

Asthma Action Plan: A record of information on the child's asthma and how to manage it, including contact details, what to do when the child's asthma worsens and emergency treatment.

Asthma triggers: Things that may induce asthma symptoms e.g. pollens, colds/viruses, dust mites, smoke, exercise, etc. Asthma triggers will vary from child to child.

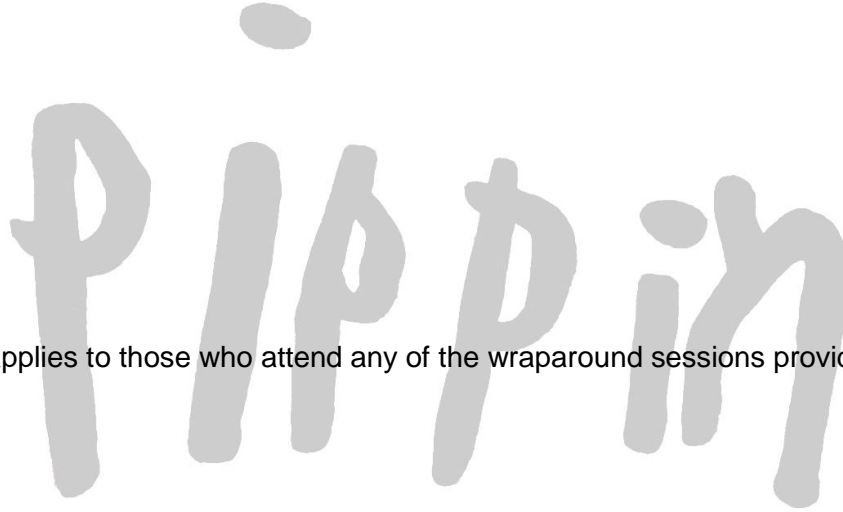
Puffer: Common name for a metered dose inhaler.

Reliever Medication: This comes in a blue container and is used to relax the muscles around the airways to relieve asthma symptoms e.g. *Airomir, Asmol, Epaq or Ventolin.*

Spacer device: A plastic device used to increase the efficiency of delivery of asthma medication from a puffer. It may be used in conjunction with a facemask.

Wraparound care

The above policy also applies to those who attend any of the wraparound sessions provided by Pippin Pre-School.

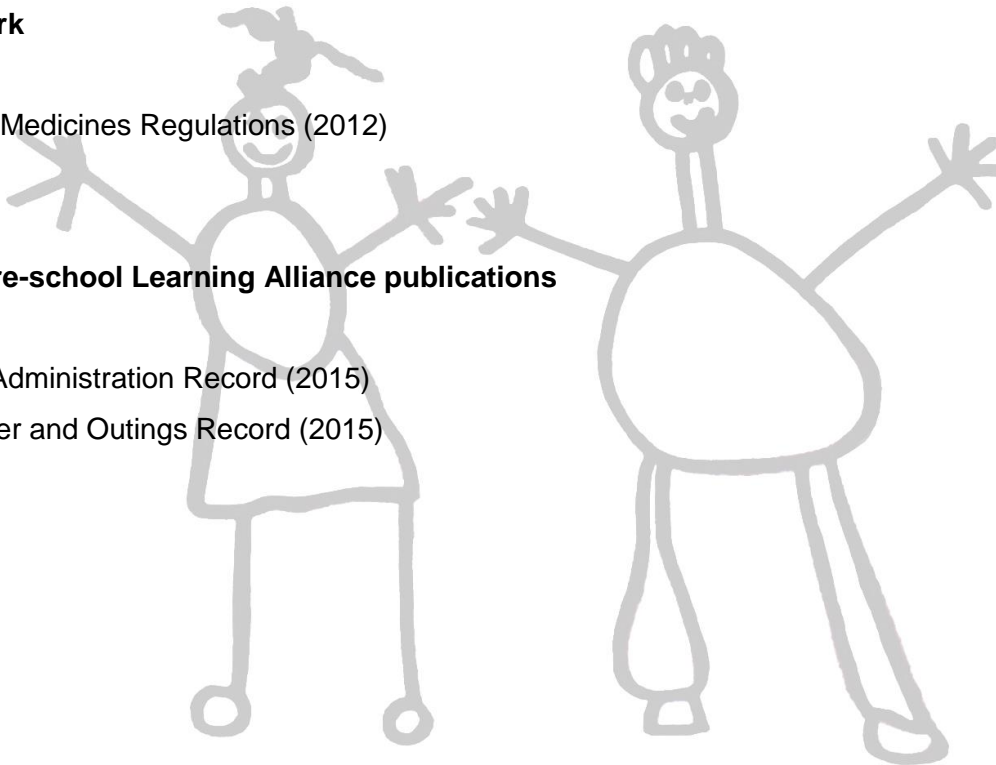


Legal framework

- The Human Medicines Regulations (2012)

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Medication Administration Record (2015)
- Daily Register and Outings Record (2015)



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