

# Asthma Management

Adapted with permission from Asthma Foundation of Victoria, *Asthma and the Child in Care Model Policy*, Version 6.2, January 2011.



## Policy

Janelle Street Centre aims to raise awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the centre, implement strategies to support the health and safety of children with asthma enrolled at Janelle Street Centre, provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities, and provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.

## Background

It is generally accepted that children under the age of six do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, Janelle Street Centre recognises the need to educate its educators, staff and families about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

## Practices

The Approved Provider will:

Encourage all staff to complete an *Emergency Asthma Management Training* qualification

The Responsible Person will:

Provide educators with a copy of this policy and brief them on asthma procedures upon their appointment;

Ensure at least one staff member who has completed an accredited asthma training is on duty whenever children are present at the service;

Ensure all enrolment forms contain the question: "Does your child have any diagnosed health care needs, including medical conditions?";

Identify children with asthma during the enrolment process and inform staff;

Provide families of any child identified with asthma with a copy of this policy and a Risk Minimisation Plan upon enrolment or diagnosis; (*Asthma Action Plan* template can be downloaded from [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au))

Store *Asthma Action Plans* in the child's enrolment record;

Formalise and document the internal procedures for emergency *Asthma First Aid*;

Promptly communicate any concerns to families should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.

Educators will:

Ensure that they are aware of the children in their care with asthma;

Ensure, in consultation with the family, the health and safety of each child through supervised management of the child's asthma;

Identify and, where practical, minimise asthma triggers;

Where necessary, modify activities in accordance with a child's needs and abilities;

Ensure that all regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the child's written *Asthma Action Plan*;

Administer emergency asthma medication if required according to the child's written *Asthma Action Plan*. If no written *Asthma Action Plan* is available Educators will follow First Aid procedures;

Promptly communicate to management or parents/guardians any concerns should it be considered that a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities; and

Ensure that children with asthma are treated the same as all other children.

Families will:

Inform educators, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, if their child has a history of asthma;

Provide all relevant information regarding their child's asthma via the written *Asthma Action Plan*, which should be provided to the centre as soon as possible upon enrolment or diagnosis;

Notify the Responsible Person, in writing, of any changes to the *Asthma Action Plan* during the year;

Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including reliever) at all times, along with a spacer and face mask;

Ensure that they comply with all requirements and procedures in relation to the Medications Record;

Communicate all relevant information and concerns to educators as the need arises (e.g. if asthma symptoms were present the previous evening); and

Ensure, in consultation with the staff, the health and safety of their child through supervised management of the child's asthma.

Children will:

Wherever practical, be encouraged to seek their reliever medication as soon as their symptoms develop.

## Sources

[www.asthmaaustralia.org.au](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au) (accessed October 25, 2023)

[www.cela.org.au](http://www.cela.org.au) (accessed October 25, 2023)

[www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au) (accessed October 25, 2023)

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