



East Preston Islamic College

**A S T H M A
P O L I C Y**

East Preston Islamic College Early Learning Centre (EPIC ELC) acknowledges that this policy was written in consultation with The Asthma Foundation of Victoria by the Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA). The Foundation's Asthma & the Child in Care Model Policy has been incorporated into this policy by ELAA. For more detailed information, visit The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's website:

Symptoms of asthma include wheezing, coughing (particularly at night), chest tightness, difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath, and symptoms may vary between children. It is generally accepted that children under six years of age do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma without adult assistance. With this in mind, a service must recognise the need to educate staff and parents/guardians about asthma and promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Legislation that governs the operation of approved children's services is based on the health, safety and welfare of children, and requires that children are protected from hazards and harm. The Approved Provider will ensure that there is at least one educator on duty at all times who has current approved emergency asthma management training in accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (Regulation 136(c)). As a demonstration of duty of care and best practice, ELAA recommends **all educators** have current approved emergency asthma management training (refer to *Definitions*).

Legislation and Standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2013* Sections 167, 169, 170

knowledge about the underlying causes of asthma, asthma triggers, and the recognition and treatment of an asthma attack.

Asthma Friendly Children's Services Program: A program developed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to provide a safer environment for children in kindergarten, childcare, family day care and out-of-school hours care. This program also gives staff the confidence and skills to care for a child with asthma and gives parents/guardians peace of mind. To be recognised as an Asthma Friendly Children's Service, services must address and fulfil five essential criteria, which will be assessed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria. Upon accreditation, the service will receive a certificate and window sticker. This accreditation is valid for three years.

Asthma Care Plan: A record of information on an individual child's asthma and its management, including contact details, what to do when the child's asthma worsens and the treatment to be administered in an emergency. An Asthma Care Plan template specifically for use in children's services can be downloaded from the *Resources* section of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria website: www.asthma.org.au

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

Asthma first aid kit: Kits should contain:

- reliever medication
- 2 small volume spacer devices
- 2 compatible children's face masks (for children under the age of four)
- record form
- asthma first aid instruction card.

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria recommends that spacers and face masks are for single-use only. It is essential to have at least two spacers and two face masks in each first aid kit, and these should be replaced once used.

Asthma triggers: Things that may induce asthma symptoms, for example (om)-6.3 dft ee n colds/viruses, dust mites, smoke and exercise. Asthma triggers will vary from child.

Duty of care: A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of an organisation to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonably foreseeable risk of injury.

Medication record: Contains details for each child to whom medication is administered by the service. This includes the child's name (om)-6.3 signed and administered medication and a record of the medication administered, including time, dosage (om)-6.3 manner of administration, name and signature of person administering medication and of the person checking the medication (om)-6.3 if required (Reg 100). A sample medication record is available on the ACECQA website.

Metered dose inhaler (puffer): A common device used to administer reliever medication.

Puffer: The common name for a metered dose inhaler.

Reliever medication: This comes in a blue/grey metered dose inhaler containing salbutamol, a chemical used to relax the muscles around the airways to relieve asthma symptoms. This medication is always used in an asthma emergency. Reliever medication is commonly sold by pharmacies as Airomir, Asmol, or Ventolin.

Risk minimisation plan: Provides information about child-specific asthma triggers and strategies to avoid these in the service. A risk minimisation plan template specifically for use in children's services can be downloaded from the *Resources* section of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria website: www.asthma.org.au

Spacer device: A plastic chamber device used to increase the efficiency of delivery of reliever medication from a puffer. It should always be used in conjunction with a puffer device and may be used in conjunction with a face mask.

Staff record: Must be kept by the service and include details of the Nominated Supervisors, the educational leader, other staff members, volunteers and the Responsible Person. The record must include information about qualifications, training and details of the *Working with Children* Check (Regulations 146–149). A sample staff record is available on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au

Sources

- Asthma Australia: www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
- The Asthma Foundation of Victoria: www.asthma.org.au or phone (03) 9326 7088 or 1800 278 462 (toll free)
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, ACECQA.

Related Policies

- *Administration of Medication Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy*
- *Emergency and Evacuation Policy*
- *Excursions and Service Events Policy*
- *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
- *Staffing Policy.*

Procedures

The Approved Provider is Responsible for:

- providing the Nominated Supervisor and all staff with a copy of the service's *Asthma Policy*, and ensuring that they are aware of asthma management strategies (refer to Attachment 1) upon employment at the service

- ensuring that medication is administered in accordance with the *Administration of Medication Policy*
- ensuring that when medication has been administered to a child in an asthma emergency without authorisation from the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as is practicable (Regulation 94)
- following appropriate reporting procedures set out in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* in the event that a child is ill, or is involved in a medical emergency or an incident at the service that results in injury or trauma.

The Nominated Supervisor is Responsible for:

- ensuring that all educators' approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training are current, meet the requirements of the National Law (Section 169(4)) and National Regulations (Regulation 137), and are approved by ACECQA
- ensuring that medication is administered in accordance with the *Administration of Medication Policy*
- ensuring that when medication has been administered to a child in an asthma emergency without authorisation from the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified (S)6.3 (u)17 (pn)0.6 (or)-6.3

- administering prescribed asthma medication in accordance with the child's Asthma Care Plan and the *Administration of Medication Policy* of the service
- developing a Risk Minimisation Plan (refer to *Definitions* and Attachment 4) for every child with asthma in consultation with parents/guardians
- discussing with parents/guardians the requirements for completing the enrolment form and medication record for their child
- consulting with the parents/guardians of children with asthma in relation to the health and safety of their child, and the supervised management of the child's asthma
- communicating any concerns to parents/guardians if a child's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities
- ensuring that children with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- ensuring that children with asthma can participate in all activities safely and to their full potential.

Parents and Guardians are Responsible for:

- reading the service's *Asthma Policy*
- informing staff, either on enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has asthma
- providing a copy of their child's Asthma Care Plan to the service and ensuring it has been prepared in consultation with, and signed by, a medical practitioner. The Asthma Care Plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually
- ensuring all details on their child's enrolment form and medication record (refer to *Definitions*) are completed prior to commencement at the service
- working with staff to develop a Risk Minimisation Plan (refer to *Definitions* and Attachment 4) for ment or Tb4)y
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- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
 - notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of EPIC ELC on 04/02/2019.

Review Date

This Policy needs to be reviewed on the 26th of August 2022

Acknowledgement

Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) acknowledges the contribution of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria in developing this policy. If your service is considering changing any part of this model policy please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to discuss your proposed changes (refer to *Sources*).

Attachment

Asthma First Aid Procedure

This Asthma First Aid Procedure has been reproduced from The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's *Asthma & the Child in Care Model Policy*, Version 2, March 2014.

Asthma First Aid Procedure

Follow the written first aid instructions on the child's Asthma Care Plan, if available and signed by a medical practitioner. If no specific and signed instructions are available, the instructions are unclear, or the child does not have an Asthma Care Plan, **begin the first aid procedure outlined below.**

Reliever medication is safe to administer to children, even if they do not have asthma, however if there is no Asthma Care Plan you must also **call emergency assistance to attend (000)** and notify the parent/carer of the child as soon as possible.

Call Emergency assistance immediately (Dial 000)

- If the person is not breathing
- If the person's asthma suddenly becomes worse, or is not improving
- If the person is having an asthma attack and a blue reliever puffer is not available
- If you are not sure it is asthma.

Step 1: Sit the Person upright

- Be calm and reassuring
- Do not leave them alone.

(Send someone else to get the asthma first aid kit)

(Sitting the child in an upright position will make it easier for them to breathe).

Step 2: Give 4 puffs of blue reliever puffer medication

- Use a spacer if there is one
- Shake the puffer
- Put 1 puff into the spacer
- Take 4 breaths from spacer
- Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken.

Remember: Shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths

(This medication is safe to administer and may be lifesaving).

Step 3: Wait 4 minutes