



3.6 Asthma Policy

Statement of Intent

The Spring Montessori recognises that asthma is a common condition, affecting 10-15% of children. We will not exclude any child with asthma from the nursery. We will support children with asthma in all aspects of nursery life and encourage them to reach their full potential. This policy will ensure all staff members; new and existing, receive relevant training regarding asthma and administering emergency medication. When a child with asthma joins The Spring Montessori or an existing child is diagnosed with the condition, the manager and the SENCO will arrange a meeting with parents/carers to establish how the child's asthma may affect their nursery life. This will include the implications for learning, playing and social development. A 'Health Care Plan' will be completed by the parents, manager and SENCO.

Record Keeping

During the meeting with parents/carers, the SENCO will agree and complete a record of the child's asthma, learning and health needs. This document may include such issues as agreeing to administer medicines and any staff training needs. This record will be agreed and signed by the parents/carers, the health professional and the SENCO. It will then be kept safe and updated when necessary. Staff will be notified of any changes in the child's condition through regular staff briefings, making staff aware of any special requirements.

Medicines

All parents/carers of children with asthma **MUST** give us information about their child's medication, they should complete an asthma medication sheet which we will keep in our records.

If the child's medication changes, parents/carers **MUST** inform the setting immediately. Please note; if a child with asthma is dropped off at nursery without their medication, we reserve the right to refuse childcare until that child has their medication with them, this is for the safety of that child. Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. A reliever inhaler will be kept, in an easily accessible place to an adult but out of children's reach. Reliever inhalers should be taken on all outings the child attends.

Reliever inhalers must be labelled with the child's name, by the parent/Carer and with a doctors prescription label

Parents/carers will be informed upon collection if their child has had their medication that day or had an attack.

All staff will assist and encourage children to take their medication when they need to.

First Aid

IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK:

- It is important to be calm and reassuring
- Deal with the child wherever the attack occurs (a change of air can make the problem worse)
- Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately - Spacers can often help
- Encourage the child to breathe slowly and deeply
- Loosen any tight clothing

- Encourage breathing through the nose and out of the mouth (this warms the air, which helps the airways relax, for normal breathing to resume)
- Assist the child to sit in a position that is most comfortable, this can often be leaning forward with arms resting on the back of a chair
- Do not lay a child who is having an asthma attack down, as this can restrict the airways and make the attack much worse.
- A mild asthma attack should ease within 3 minutes, if it does not encourage the child to take their inhaler again.
- Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in nursery, when they feel better they should be able to return to their play.

IMPORTANT - IF:

- After 5 minutes there is little or no improvement
- OR the asthma attacks becomes worse
- OR breathlessness makes breathing difficult
- OR the child is becoming exhausted

THEN:

Call for an ambulance on 999 - Parents/carers should be contacted to inform them of the situation.

Learning and Behaviour

Physical development is an essential part of nursery life and child development. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully. All staff members are aware of which children in the nursery have asthma and they will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise or weather, to take their reliever inhaler before they go outside.

Nursery Environment

We are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that the nursery environment is favourable to children with asthma. The nursery has a strict non-smoking policy and is aware of the effects of keeping pets. Therefore no furry pets are kept within nursery rooms.

This policy was adopted by	_____	<i>(name of</i>
On	_____	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	_____	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	_____	
Name of signatory	_____	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or	_____	