



Little Monkeys Day Nursery & Pre School

Asthma/Reliever Policy

Little Monkeys has adapted a policy to care for not only those with asthma but also for the growing trend of children being prescribed with relievers for other symptoms such as hay fever or coughs, yet not being diagnosed with Asthma. This policy should be followed for all who have been prescribed a reliever.

- Welcomes children with Asthma & other Breathing complications
- Ensures that children with asthma can participate fully in nursery life
- Recognises that children with asthma need immediate access to their **blue reliever inhalers**
- Maintains a record of all children with asthma and their medication
- Ensures an asthma friendly environment
- Ensures all staff know what to do in the event of an asthma attack

Guidance:

In order to achieve the above, the following guidance is recommended:

- All senior staff receive training from each parent of a child with a reliever, ensuring they are aware of how to deal with that child's individual needs.
- Nursery clearly displays "What to do in the event of an Asthma Attack" posters at appropriate sites such as office and playrooms.
- All staff have a clear understanding of the procedure to follow when a child has an asthma attack or is in need of their reliever.
- Medicines are stored in their original container, clearly labelled, in a locked medicine cupboard located in the Managers Office and are inaccessible to the children but accessible to Manager/Deputy and senior practitioners.
- Nursery maintains a register of children with a reliver and individual children's records with emergency treatment details on individual child's care plans.

Management of Asthma/reliever in Nursery:

Early administration of the **blue reliever inhaler** will cause the majority of attacks to be completely resolved.

- Parents/carers should supply a labelled inhaler and, if needed, a spacer device.
- Parents/carers should provide written details (on a care plan and medication form) of the dose of reliever to be taken if the child has symptoms of asthma whilst at nursery.
- Information should be dated and signed by the parents/carers.
- Parents/carers should notify the Nursery in the event of any changes.
- Details to be reviewed 6 monthly with parents/carers.

In the Event of an Asthma Attack:

- Bring the inhaler to the child, not the child to the inhaler. Calm the child as much as possible to maximise the benefit from the inhaler technique.
- Ensure that the correct number of **puffs of the blue reliever inhaler** are taken according to their action plans immediately. Whenever possible, allow medication to be taken where the attack occurs. Sit the child upright wherever possible.
- If symptoms do not resolve, continue to give **puffs according to individual action plans**
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until the attack is resolved.
- If the attack resolves and as soon as they feel better, the child can return to normal nursery activities.

The child's parents must be informed of the attack and confirmed in writing so that this information can also be passed onto the child's GP. This should include where and when the attack took place (e.g. area of nursery and what activity), what medication was given and how much was given.

Emergency Situation

- Call the ambulance urgently if:
- The blue reliever inhaler has no effect after 5 - 10 minutes of first using.
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk.
- The child is getting exhausted.

- The child's lips are blue.
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition.
- Continue to give the **blue reliever inhaler** until help arrives or symptoms subside.

Safety:

The drug in blue inhalers used to relieve symptoms of asthma is very safe and even if too much is taken, will not cause harm. It is not harmful if a person who does not have asthma takes some of this medication, however, if a large amount is taken they may experience some side effects. Side effects include increased heart rate and muscle tremor but are short lived and do not cause any long-term effects. (*Asthma UK 2013*)

This policy was adopted on:

January 2018

Signed on behalf of the nursery:

Laura Fradsham (Owner/Manager)

Date for review:

January 2019
