ASTHMA POLICY



Mandatory - Quality Area 2

This policy was written in consultation with The Asthma Foundation of Victoria. 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: www.asthma.org.au

PURPOSE

This policy will outline the procedures to:

- ensure educators, staff and parents/guardians are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma at Brentwood Kindergarten
- ensure that all necessary information for the effective management of children with asthma enrolled at Brentwood Kindergarten is collected and recorded so that these children receive appropriate attention when required
- respond to the needs of children who have not been diagnosed with asthma and who experience breathing difficulties (suspected asthma attack) at the kindergarten.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Brentwood Kindergarten is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children enrolled at the kindergarten
- · providing an environment in which all children with asthma can participate to their full potential
- providing a clear set of guidelines and procedures to be followed with regard to the management of asthma
- educating and raising awareness about asthma among educators, staff, parents/guardians and any other person(s) dealing with children enrolled at the kindergarten.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Brentwood Kindergarten.

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility. While Brentwood Kindergarten recognises its duty of care towards children with asthma during their time at the service, the responsibility for ongoing asthma management rests with the child's family and medical practitioner.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Asthma is a chronic, treatable health condition that affects approximately one in 10 Australian children and is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. With good asthma management, people with asthma need not restrict their daily activities. Community education assists in generating a better understanding of asthma within the community and minimising its impact.

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 2010: Sections 167, 169, 174
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 136,
 137
- Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted
 - Element 2.1.1: Each child's health needs are supported
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.3: Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation Victorian Law Today: http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
- Commonwealth Legislation ComLaw: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/

4. **DEFINITIONS**

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training: Training that is approved by the National Authority in accordance with Division 7 of the National Regulations, and is listed on the ACECQA website: http://www.acecqa.gov.au. EAM training provides 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, pollens, colds/viruses, dust mites, smoke and exercise. Asthma triggers will vary from child to child.

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

Medication record: Contains details for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the service. This includes the child's name, signed authorisation to administer medication and a record of the medication administered, including time, date, dosage, manner of administration, name and signature of person administering the medication and of the person checking the medication, if required (Regulation 92). 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

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- Asthma Australia: www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
- The Asthma Foundation of Victoria: <u>www.asthma.org.au</u> or phone (03) 9326 7088 or 1800 278 462 (toll free)
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): www.acecga.gov.au

 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, ACECQA.

Service 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 kindergarten's Asthma Policy, and ensuring that they are aware of asthma management strategies (refer to Attachment 1) upon employment at the kindergarten
- providing approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training (refer to *Definitions*) to staff as required under the National Regulations
- ensuring at least one staff member with current approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training (refer to *Definitions*) is on duty at all times
- ensuring the details of approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training (refer to Definitions) are included on the staff record (refer to Definitions)
- providing parents/guardians with a copy of the service's Asthma Policy upon enrolment of their child (Regulation 91)
- identifying children with asthma during the enrolment process and informing staff
- providing parents/guardians with an Asthma Care Plan (refer to *Definitions and* Attachment 2) to be completed in consultation with, and signed by, a medical practitioner
- developing a Risk Minimisation Plan (refer to *Definitions* and Attachment 4) for every child with asthma, in consultation with parents/guardians
- ensuring that all children with asthma have an Asthma Care Plan and Risk Minimisation Plan filed with their enrolment record
- ensuring a medication record is kept for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the kindergarten (Regulation 92)
- ensuring parents/guardians of all children with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer (including a child's face mask, if required) at all times their child is attending the kindergarten
- implementing an asthma first aid procedure (refer to Attachment 1) consistent with current national recommendations
- ensuring that all staff are aware of the asthma first aid procedure
- ensuring adequate provision and maintenance of asthma first aid kits (refer to Definitions)
- ensuring the expiry date of reliever medication is checked regularly and replaced when required, and that spacers and face masks are replaced after every use
- facilitating communication between management, educators, staff and parents/guardians regarding the kindergarten's *Asthma Policy* and strategies
- identifying and minimising asthma triggers (refer to Definitions) for children attending the kindergarten, where possible

- 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
- immediately communicating any concerns with parents/guardians regarding the management of children with asthma at the kindergarten
- ensuring that the kindergarten meets the requirements to be recognised as an Asthma Friendly Children's Service (refer to *Definitions*) with The Asthma Foundation of Victoria
- displaying Asthma Australia's Asthma First Aid poster (refer to Sources and Attachment 3) in key locations at the kindergarten
- 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 kindergarten 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 as soon as is practicable (Regulation 94)
- ensuring an asthma first aid kit (refer to Definitions) is taken on all excursions and other offsite activities (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
- compiling a list of children with asthma and placing it in a secure, but readily accessible, location known to all staff. This should include the Asthma Care Plan for each child
- ensuring that induction procedures for casual and relief staff include information about children attending the kindergarten who have been diagnosed with asthma, and the location of their medication and action plans
- organising asthma management information sessions for parents/guardians of children enrolled at the kindergarten, where appropriate
- ensuring programmed activities and experiences take into consideration the individual needs of all children, including any children with asthma.

Certified Supervisor/s and other educators are responsible for:

- ensuring that they are aware of the kindergarten's *Asthma Policy* and asthma first aid procedure (refer to Attachment 1)
- ensuring that they can identify children displaying the symptoms of an asthma attack and locate their personal medication, Asthma Care Plans and the asthma first aid kit
- maintaining current approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) (refer to *Definitions*) qualifications
- identifying and, where possible, minimising asthma triggers (refer to *Definitions*) as outlined in the child's Asthma Care Plan
- taking the asthma first aid kit, children's personal asthma medication and Asthma Care Plans on excursions or other offsite events
- 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/guardians are responsible for:

- reading Brentwood Kindergarten'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 kindergarten 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 Brentwood Kindergarten
- working with staff to develop a Risk Minimisation Plan (refer to *Definitions* and Attachment 4) for their child
- providing an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication and equipment for their child at all times and ensuring it is appropriately labelled with the child's name
- notifying staff, in writing, of any changes to the information on the Asthma Care Plan, enrolment form or medication record
- communicating regularly with educators/staff in relation to the ongoing health and wellbeing of their child, and the management of their child's asthma
- encouraging their child to learn about their asthma, and to communicate with service staff if they are unwell or experiencing asthma symptoms.

Volunteers and students, while at Brentwood Kindergarten, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, Brentwood Kindergarten will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- · revise the policy and procedures as part of the kindergarten's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Asthma First Aid Procedure
- Attachment 2: Sample Asthma Care Plan download from the Resources section of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria website: www.asthma.org.au
- Attachment 3: Asthma First Aid poster download from the Asthma Australia website: https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/resources/first-aid
- Attachment 4: Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan download from the Resources section of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria website: www.asthma.org.au

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Brentwood Kindergarten on 1st February 2013

This policy was reviewed and accepted by the Committee of Management on 11th October 2018

REVIEW DATE: 11/10/2019

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 1

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 separate 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

If there is no improvement, give 4 more separate puffs as above.

Step 4. If there is still no improvement call emergency assistance (000)

- · Say ambulance and that someone is having an asthma attack
- Keep giving 4 puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives.

ATTACHMENT 2 Sample Asthma Care Plan

Asthma care plan for

confidential: Staff are trained in asthromedication as authorised in this care plan any changes to this plan.	Photo of student (optional)			
To be completed by the treating doctor as medical personnel.	Plan date			
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY				//201
				Review date //201
Student's name		Da		
Managing an asthma attack Staff are trained in asthma first aid (see or	verleaf). Please write dov	wn anything different	this student might	need if they have an asthma attack:
Daily asthma management This student's usual asthma signs	Frequency and :	savaritv	Кром	rn triggers for this student's asthma (eg
Cough Wheeze	☐ Daily/most	-	ise*, colds/flu, smoke) — please detail:	
☐ Difficulty breathing ☐ Other (please describe)	_	ly (less than 5 x per ye ase describe)	ar)	
Does this student usually tell an adult if s Does this student need help to take asth	_	eathing?	□ No	
Does this student use a mask with a spacer? *Does this student need a blue reliever puffer medication before exercise? Yes				
Medication plan If this student needs asthma medication, Name of medication and colour	please detail below and		·	nask are supplied to staff. Time required
Doctor Name of doctor	I have read, understoc attachments listed. I a and emergency medic	Parent/Guardian I have read, understood and agreed with this care plan and any attachments listed. I approve the release of this information to staff and emergency medical personnel. I will notify the staff in writing if		rgency contact information
there are any changes to these instructions. I understand staff will seek emergency medical help as needed and that I am responsible		id staff will		
Address				
Address Phone	Signature	Date	Mobile	9



asthmaaustralia.org.au | 1800 ASTHMA Helpline (1800 278 46 🚹 💆

Asthma First Aid

- Sit the person upright
 - Be calm and reassuring
 - Do not leave them alone



- Give 4 separate puffs of blue/grey reliever puffer
 - Shake puffer
 - Put <u>1 puff</u> into spacer
 - Take 4 breaths from spacer

Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken

Remember: Shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths

OR give 2 separate doses of a Bricanyl inhaler (age 6 & over) or a Symbicort inhaler (over 12)



- Wait 4 minutes
 - If there is no improvement, give <u>4 more separate puffs of blue/grey reliever</u> as above

OR give 1 more dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort inhaler



- If there is still no improvement call emergency assistance Dial Triple Zero (000)
 - Say 'ambulance' and that someone is having an asthma attack
 - Keep giving <u>4 separate puffs</u> every <u>4 minutes</u> until emergency assistance arrives

OR give 1 dose of a Bricanyl or Symbicort every 4 minutes - up to 3 more doses of Symbicort



- Call emergency assistance immediately Dial Triple Zero (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 reliever is not available
- If you are not sure if it's asthma
- If the person is known to have Anaphylaxis follow their Anaphylaxis Action
 Plan, then give Asthma First Aid

Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma



Contact your local Asthma Foundation **1800 ASTHMA Helpline** (1800 278 462) **asthmaaustralia.org.au**

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ATTACHMENT 4

Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan



Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan Template

Cover Sheet

This Plan is to be completed by the Director or nominee on the basis of information from the student's medical practitioner provided by the parent/carer.

Children's Service or S	Children's Service or School Name:						
Phone:							
Student's name:							
Date of birth:		Year level:	:				
Asthma Action Plan pr	rovided by parent/carer (please circle): YES / NO					
Asthma Triggers:							
Other health condition	Other health conditions:						
Medication at school:	Medication at school:						
Parent/carer contact:	Parent/carer information (1)	F	Parent/carer information (2)				
	Name: Relationship:		Name:				
			Relationship:				
	Home phone:	ŀ	Home phone:				
	Work phone:		Work phone:				
	Mobile:	N	Mobile:				
	Address:	Į.	Address:				
Other emergency contacts (if parent/carer not available): Medical practitioner contact:							
Emergency care to be provided at school:							
Medication Storage:							
The following Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan has been developed with my knowledge and input and will be reviewed on (record date):							
Signature of parent/carer:			Date:				
Signature of principal (or nominee):			Date:				

The Asthma Foundation Victoria 479-481 King Street, West Melbourne, Vic, 3003 03 9326 7088



Strategies to Avoid Asthma Triggers

Student's name:				
Date of birth:	Year level:	Year level:		
Predominant Asthma Trigger/s:				
Other Asthma Triggers:				
Risk (suggested risks listed in Appendix)	Strategy	Who is Responsible?		

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Appendix

Examples of Risks, Situations, Concepts to consider when completing the Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan

- Who are the children and what are their asthma triggers (is information provided on their Asthma Action Plan)?
- What are the potential sources of exposure to their asthma triggers?
- Where will the potential source of exposure to their asthma triggers occur?
- Are all staff (including relief staff, visitors and parent/carer volunteers) aware of which children have asthma?
- Does the bullying policy include health related bullying?
- Is there age appropriate asthma education for children at the service and are children actively
 encouraged to seek help if they feel unwell?
- Do you have asthma information available at the service for parents/carers?
- What are the lines of communication in the children's service?
- What is the process for enrolment at the service, including the collection of medical information and Action Plans for medical conditions?
- Who is responsible for the health conditions policy, the medications policy, Asthma Action Plans and Risk Minimisation plans?
- Does the child have an Asthma Action Plan and where is it kept?
- Do all service staff know how to interpret and implement Asthma Action Plans in an emergency?
- Do all children with asthma attend with their blue/grey reliever puffer and a spacer? (a children's face mask is recommended for children unable to use a spacer correctly, consider face mask use in children under 5 years old)
- Where are the Asthma Emergency Kits kept?
- Do all staff and visitors to the service know where Asthma Emergency Kits are kept?
- Who is responsible for the contents of Asthma Emergency Kits? (checking reliever medication expiry dates, replacing spacers and face masks as needed)
- Do you have one member of staff on duty at all times who has current and approved Emergency Asthma Management training?
- · Who else needs training in the use of asthma emergency equipment?
- Do you have a second Asthma Emergency Kit for excursions?
- What happens if a child's reliever medication and spacer are not brought to the service?
- Does the child have any other health conditions, such as allergies or anaphylaxis?
- Do they have an Action Plan and Risk Minimisation plan for each health condition?
- Do plants around the service attract bees, wasps or ants?
- Have you considered planting a low-allergen garden?
- Have you considered where food and drink consumption and disposal is occurring? (including food and drink consumed by all staff and visitors)
- Could traces of food allergens be present on craft materials used by the children? (e.g. egg cartons, cereal boxes, milk cartons)
- Do your cleaners use products that leave a strong smell, or do you plan to renovate or paint the centre when children are present?
- Do your staff use heavy perfumes or spray aerosol deodorants while at work?
- Are you in a bushfire-prone area where controlled burning may occur?
- What special activities do you have planned that may introduce children to asthma triggers?

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