Hills Grammar

Asthma Procedure

Statement

Asthma is a long term lung condition which causes the muscles in the airways to swell and squeeze tight. It is generally accepted that children under the age of six do not have the skills and ability to recognize and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, the ECEC recognizes the need to educate educators and families about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Rationale

This policy aims to;

- Raise awareness of asthma amongst those enrolled at ECEC.
- Implement strategies to support the health and safety of children with asthma enrolled at ECEC.
- Provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities.

Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that there is always an educator on site who has completed first aid and asthma management training.
- Oversee all staff, educators and volunteers can identify the location of individual asthma medication and medical management plans.
- Communicate with staff and educators which children have asthma.
- Check that families have given permission on the enrolment form for educators to administer asthma medication in the event of an emergency asthma attack.
- Oversee that an asthma medical management plan, signed by the child's Medical Practitioner and the child's asthma medication and spacer is provided by the parent / guardian when their child commences care at the ECEC or as soon the child is diagnosed with asthma.
- Routinely check the ECEC general asthma medication and spacer is readily available and in date.
- Oversee that children's individual medical management plans and medication is stored in the office when it is not in the evacuation bags.
- Routinely check the expiry dates of the asthma medication and update the ECEC Medication Plans document located next to the medication board in the office as required.

Educators will:

- Take responsibility to be aware of the children in their care who have asthma.
- Identify and where possible, minimize asthma triggers.
- Where necessary, modify activities in accordance with a child's needs and abilities. Work in partnership with the child's parent / guardian when modifications are required.

- Ensure all regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the child's written Asthma Action Plan.
- Administer asthma medication for specific children following the Asthma Action Plan or ECEC Medication Form.
- Where possible, have two ECEC educators are present when administering asthma medication to a child.
- Ensure both educators sign the ECEC medication form recording relevant details of the administration of the medication.
- Send home the child's ECEC spacer when used at ECEC so it can be cleaned and then returned to ECEC. If the spacer is contaminated with blood, it will be thrown out.

Emergency Treatment of an Asthma Attack

- If a child develops signs of what appears to be an asthma attack, appropriate care must be given immediately. Regardless of whether the attack is mild, moderate or severe, treatment should commence immediately.
- If the child has written instructions on their asthma plan, follow these.
- If not, immediately follow the instructions below.

Asthma First Aid Plan (information from - National Asthma Council, Australia)

1. **Sit the person upright.**
   - Be calm and reassuring.
   - Do not leave them alone
2. **Give medication.**
   - Shake the blue reliever puffer.
   - Use a spacer if you have one.
   - Give 1 puff to 4 breaths.
   - Repeat this 4 times.
3. **Wait 4 minutes.**
   - If no improvement, repeat step 2.
4. **If there is still no improvement, call 000.**
   - Tell the operator that the child is having an asthma attack.
   - Keep giving 4 puffs every 4 minutes while you are waiting for emergency assistance.
   - Call the School nurses as soon as practically possible.
   - Call parents as soon as practically possible.

Families will:

- Inform educators, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has a history of asthma or symptoms of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding their child's asthma via the written Asthma Action Plan.
- Provide an updated Asthma Action Plan annually or if there are changes to their child's medication.
- Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of asthma medication which is in date.
- Provide up to date asthma medication including spacer, before the existing medication at ECEC expires.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to educators, eg, if their child had symptoms the night before.
- Monitor their child's illness and keep them at home if their asthma symptoms increase.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Staying Healthy in Childcare 6th Edition

National Asthma Council Australia https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/asthma-first-aid

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.