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| **Little Learning Ladder**  **Asthma Policy** |

At Little Learning Ladder we

* welcome all children with asthma
* recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many children
* encourages and helps children with asthma to participate fully in school life
* recognises the need for immediate access to inhalers
* does all it can to make sure that the school environment is favourable to asthmatics
* ensures that all staff understand asthma
* understands what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack and will, if necessary, give emergency treatment and inform parents accordingly
* has an emergency inhaler available for use by any child having severe breathing problems if that child’s parents have given prior written consent for its use
* Works in partnership with children parents, staff, and the health service to ensure the successful implementation of this asthma policy.

1. Little Learning Ladder recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting

many children and positively welcomes all children with asthma.

2. The nursery encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of nursery by having a clear policy that is understood by all staff members. Supply staff, students, volunteers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. Training is updated at regular intervals. We also have fully trained first aiders.

3. When a child joins the nursery the parents are asked to inform us if their child has asthma. It is also important that parents inform the nursery if their child **subsequently** develops asthma. All parents of children with asthma are asked to give us information about their child’s medication. Parents complete an asthma care plan kept in the folder and Office for our records. From this information the nursery keeps its asthma register. If the child’s medication changes parents are asked to inform the nursery.

4. Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in the classroom in a readily accessible place, Reliever inhalers are taken with the children when they go on a walk or school trip. All reliever inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent.

**All nursery staff will let children take their medication when they need to.**

5. Taking part in physical activities is an essential part of nursery and children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully. Staff are aware of which children in their class have asthma and they will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the activity. If a child needs to use their reliever inhaler during the session they will be able to do so.

6. The nursery does all that it can to ensure that the environment is favourable to

children with asthma. The nursery has a non-smoking policy and is aware of the possible

effects of keeping pets in the classroom.

7. The nursery recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

8. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The following procedure is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK**

**1. Deal with the child wherever the attack occurs. (A change of air can make the problem worse.)**

**2. Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**

**3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and arms are resting on the back of a chair, then send for a first aider.**

**4. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes give the child the reliever inhaler again.**

**5. Contact the parents and call an ambulance if:-**

* **The reliever inhaler has had no effect after a further 5 to 10 minutes**
* **The child is either distressed or unable to talk**
* **The child is getting exhausted**
* **You have any doubts at all about the child's condition**
* **Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement at nursery. When they feel better they can return to activities.**
* **Parents will be informed if their child has an asthma attack.**

Internal use only

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date disseminated to staff** | **Date for review** |
| April 2013 |  | June 2013 | April 2014 |