

Asthma Policy

Early years provider name: Lower Covey Montessori Nursery and Pear Tree Nursery & Pre-school. Business name: Lower Covey Ltd.

Policy Background

This organisation understands asthma to be a common disease involving the respiratory system in which the airways constrict and become inflamed, causing symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing. These episodes may be triggered by such things as exposure to an environmental stimulant such as an allergen, environmental tobacco smoke, cold or warm air, perfume, pet dander, moist air, exercise or exertion, or emotional stress. In children, the most common triggers are viral illnesses such as those that cause the common cold. This airway constriction responds to medication such bronchodilators, which is often administered via an inhaler.

This organisation believes that children who suffer from asthma should have the opportunity of being able to play a full and active role in life and should not suffer from exclusion or discrimination in any way due to their condition.

Policy

- This organisation recognises that asthma is a widespread and serious but controllable condition and that children with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of life.
- Children with asthma will be welcomed and included in all of the activities of the organisation.
- We recognise that pupils with asthma will need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- We will keep a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- We will ensure that the whole service — including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment — is favourable to children with asthma.
- We will ensure that children with asthma are not stigmatised or treated differently or discriminated against and we will help all children attending the service to better understand asthma.
- All staff (including bank staff and support staff) who come into contact with children with asthma will know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- We understand that children with asthma may occasionally experience bullying and we will have procedures in place to prevent this.

The organisation will work in partnership with all interested parties including parents/carers and doctors to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Medication Arrangements

The organisation understands that in the case of an asthma attack immediate access to reliever medicines, usually an inhaler, is essential.

In order for medication to be administered the following procedure must be adhered to by parents and staff.

- The organisation requires written and signed consent in advance from parents which clearly shows the date, dosage and expiry date of any medication and the circumstances in which it should be given.
- Any medication left with staff for administration must be in its original container and bear its original label. The label must be legible and have the name of the child on it.

In this service:

- reliever inhalers will be accepted as described under Medication Arrangements, above
- inhalers must be properly labelled for use by the child for whom they are prescribed; this label must display an expiry date which will be checked by staff when they accept the medication
- reliever inhalers will be kept in the medication cabinet in the reception area, which is designed to be accessible in the event of an emergency
- parents/carers will be asked to ensure that the organisation is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler in case the first one runs out
- where a child requires their inhaler staff will check that the correct inhaler is given to them and, where possible, allow them to administer it themselves. Where the child is too young or cannot administer the inhaler themselves they will be helped by a registered first aider, who will be on duty at all times, or by another member of staff specially trained in helping with medication
- any administration of medication will be recorded and reported to the parents/carers when they collect their child.

Medicine that has not been prescribed for a child must not under any circumstances be given. Staff will never give medication to a child when it is prescribed to another.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Training

All new staff will be made aware of this policy on induction. Staff training regarding healthcare issues, including asthma, will be a regular feature of staff development programmes. Staff will be asked to attend general training in the administration and monitoring of medication and to meet specific needs concerning administration, or other health-related matters.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Policy review date: _____