



## **Asthma Policy**

Stepping Stones welcomes all children with Asthma/inhaler users and recognises their needs.

We encourage all parents/carers to give us appropriate information on their child's condition and to provide a reliever (blue) inhaler and a spacer device.

Stepping Stones will encourage and help children with Asthma & inhaler users to participate fully in activities.

All Stepping Stones practitioners will have access to regular Asthma Training Awareness.

### **On Admission**

- Parents/carers will be asked to complete an admission form giving full details of their child's condition, regular medication, emergency contact numbers, Doctors Details and any relevant hospital details.
- All children that has been diagnosed with Asthma or those that use inhalers will be required to have reliever (blue) inhaler and space device to be kept in the setting.
- If the staff feels that the requests by parents/carers regarding the administration of Asthma/inhaler medication are not in line with the advice received during training they may request parents/carers to obtain clear written guidance from the child's Doctor/consultant or Asthma Nurse.

Parents/carers will be required to complete an Asthma/inhaler Alert card with the support of the setting.

The Asthma/inhaler Alert card will provide details of:-

- Emergency Contacts
- The name and dose of the child's medication with details of when and how to use it
- What triggers the child's asthma/breathing difficulties (if known)
- Individual signs and symptoms
- What to do if the child's asthma/breathing gets any worse
- Special requests from parents/carers.

### **Storage and Disposal of Medication**

- All reliever (blue) inhalers and spacer devices must be clearly labelled by the Parents/carers with the child's name.
- Reliever (blue) inhalers will be stored safely (if possible in the same room as the child) to ensure immediate access
- If the child leaves the premises for any activity their reliever (blue) & spacer device must go with them. This will be a joint responsibility of both the staff & Parents
- Reliever (blue) inhalers will not be stored where there is excessive heat or cold
- The staff will inform the parents when the reliever (blue) is low on sufficient medication or when the reliever needs replacing due to expiry date. The reliever should be replaced every 6 months or earlier is necessary. It will be the Parents/carers responsibility to dispose of unused/expired medication

### **Exercise and Activity**

- All children will be encouraged to participate in exercise/play activities
- Some children may need to use their reliever (blue) inhaler before exercising
- Reliever (blue) inhalers will be readily available at all times



## Asthma Attack

- Where the child has a blue reliever inhaler it is important that all staff know how to manage an asthma attack/breathing difficulties. In this event staff will follow the procedures outlined in the 'Asthma Attack flowchart'. This flowchart will be visually displayed in key areas around the setting
- Most children will not need to use their reliever (blue) inhaler on a daily basis. Parents/carers will be informed if their child has used their reliever.
- If the child needs to repeat the use of their reliever within four hours we will allow them to do so but will **always** notify parents/carers immediately as the child will need to have a medical review that day with their Doctor or at a walk in centre or at A&E.

## Staff Training

All practitioners at Stepping Stones will access the Asthma Awareness Training and will receive regular updates so that they recognise and know how to manage a child having an asthma attack, when and how to call an ambulance and what you should do while you are waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date to be reviewed</b>
<i>August 2017</i>	<i>Adele Stone</i>	<i>August 2018</i>