**MEDICATION POLICY REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF INHALERS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Doctors usually do not diagnose children to have asthma until they are six years old. The reason for this is due to the Doctor being unable to rule out other conditions before the child reaches six years of age. Therefore this policy is for children with asthma or for children who use inhalers.

**PROCUDURE**

To administer reliever inhalers (blue inhalers) the following procedures must be implemented:-

* The parent or legal guardian must complete an Asthma Care Plan and an Asthma/Inhaler Alert Card
* The parent or legal guardian must complete an Asthma Card
* The parent or legal guardian must complete a medication form which will be reviewed every 2 months whereby the parent/guardian will check the inhaler to ensure that the medication is in date, there is enough medication and it is clearly labelled with the child’s name.

To administer preventer inhalers (brown inhalers) the same procedures as above applies. If the preventer inhaler has to be administered 3 times a day, Dainty Little Hands @ Kidz Academy would administer the medication once a day indicating the parent/guardian would have to administrate it twice a day. If the preventer inhaler only requires being administered twice a day, this should be administered at home, the first dose being given in the morning and the last dose given at night time.

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In addition to the above procedures Dainty Little Hands @ Kidz Academy would also implement the following:

* Each child will have a box containing their inhaler, spacer device, asthma care plan, asthma card, instructions for how to use the inhaler and an asthma attack flow chart. Boxes will be situated on the emergency medication shelve in the child’s playroom, out of the children’s reach.
* It is essential that the staff are aware of the child’s individual triggers so inhalers can be used to prevent an asthma attack i.e. after vigorous exercise indicating a child may need their blue inhaler after outside play.
* Senior staff will administer preventer inhalers (brown inhalers) to children as this is not an emergency medication, it is a preventer.
* In the case of an asthma attack, any member of staff who as had previous asthma training has authorisation to give a child the Salbutamol Inhaler (Blue Inhaler). Staff will be provided with instructions of how to operate the inhaler and also the correct dosage to give for the age of the child involved (this information will be in the child’s inhaler box along with the asthma attack flow chart).
* If a child is having an asthma attack it is our policy for a member of staff to contact the emergency services and then the parents whilst their colleague is dealing with the child. There are forms next to each phone in the nursery, which provides guidance for staff on how to contact the emergency services and manage an emergency.
* If a child has been given a steroid inhaler then you must ensure their face has been washed after giving the inhaler.
* If the spacer looks misty then you need to clean it with hot soapy water and then rinse it in hot water and let it dry naturally, never dry it with a hand towel or anything else.

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