

## Early Learning

### Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy

## Asthma Appendix 23.2

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy.*

### Current Environmental Context

Asthma is a chronic, treatable health condition that affects approximately one in ten Australian children and is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. With good asthma management, children with asthma need not restrict their daily activities. Community education assists in generating a better understanding of asthma within the community and minimising its impact.

Asthma is different for everyone - individuals can have different triggers, symptoms and medications for their asthma, and these can also change. Symptoms of asthma may include: wheezing, coughing (particularly at night), chest tightness, difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath, and symptoms may vary between children. It is generally accepted that children under six years of age do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma without adult assistance. With this in mind, a service must recognise the need to educate staff and parents about asthma and promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility. Uniting Early Learning Services educators will work in partnership with families to ensure the wellbeing of children. However, the responsibility for ongoing asthma management rests with the child's family and medical practitioner. As a demonstration of duty of care and best practice all Uniting Early Learning' educators are trained to assess and manage an asthma emergency.

Children with asthma should be identified during the enrolment process where possible, and staff informed. Parents must be provided with an Asthma Care Plan (*refer to Form 23.2.1*) to be completed in consultation with, and signed by, a medical practitioner. Every child with asthma must also have a Medical Conditions risk minimisation plan and communication plan (*refer Form 23.1*) developed in consultation with parents. These documents are available on the Asthma Australia website (*refer to Resources*). It is most important that children with asthma are not discriminated against in any way and that the children can participate in all activities safely and to their full potential.

All Uniting Early Learning services are to be an *asthma friendly education and care service* where current and approved asthma: training for educators, equipment, information and policy is provided.

The following attachments contain detailed information relating to all aspects of this policy:

**Attachment 23.2a:** Responsibilities relating to the Asthma Policy

**Attachment 23.2b:** Asthma First Aid Procedure

**Attachment 23.2c:** Asthma First Aid Flowchart

**Attachment 23.2d:** Asthma First Aid Poster

**Attachment 23.2.e:** Considerations for the development of an Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan

**Attachment 23.2.f:** Thunderstorm Asthma

**Form 23.2.1** Asthma Care Plan Forms are available: [Click here](#)

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## Resources/Sources

Uniting Early Learning acknowledges the contribution of the Asthma Foundation of Victoria in the development of this policy. This policy was reviewed by the Asthma Foundation of Victoria in July 2017.

- *Asthma and Wheezing in the First Years of Life*: a guide to wheezing for parents and those caring for infants and young children (2012) National Asthma Council of Australia
- Asthma Australia: <http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au>  
Asthma Foundation of Victoria: [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au) or phone (03) 9326 7088 or 1800 278 462 (toll free)
- *Asthma Friendly Children's Service Recognition Checklist (2016)* Asthma Foundation Victoria
- *My Asthma (2008)* Asthma Foundation of Victoria
- *The Low Allergen Garden (2013)* Asthma Foundation of Victoria
- *Thunderstorm Asthma - Pollen counts Tasmania* [www.airrater.org](http://www.airrater.org)

## Authorisation

This policy was adopted by Uniting Early Learning on 19 November 2018

## Review

This policy is to be reviewed by: 30 November 2020

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