

How Asthma-Friendly is your Childcare setting?

Children with asthma need proper support in childcare settings to keep their asthma under control and be fully active. Use the questions below to help you determine how well your childcare setting assists children with asthma:

- Yes No 1. **Is there a process in place for knowing which children have asthma?**
E.g. How is information about asthma obtained from parents? Do intake forms list asthma as a health condition? Is asthma discussed during parent interviews? Are health forms updated annually to identify possible changes in asthma status?
- Yes No 2. **Is there a process in place for administering and storing asthma inhalers or to allow self-carrying (self-administration) of inhalers when appropriate?**
E.g. Are staff trained to give and/or assist with administration of inhalers as prescribed by each child's physician and authorized by each child's parent? Are children allowed to carry and administer their own asthma medicines when age appropriate?
- Yes No 3. **Is there a process in place for handling worsening asthma and an asthma emergency?**
E.g. Is there a written, individualized emergency plan for each child in case of an asthma episode (attack)? Does the plan clearly explain the steps to take and when to call 911? Is the Ontario Lung Association poster *Managing Asthma Episodes* posted in visible locations?
- Yes No 4. **Are children with asthma supported by staff to participate safely in physical activities?**
E.g. Are children encouraged to be active? Can children use their reliever inhaler before exercise if required? Are modified or alternative activities available if medically necessary?
- Yes No 5. **Is there a process in place for identifying and assisting with the reduction of common asthma triggers?**
E.g. Are staff aware of what things might trigger asthma symptoms?
- Yes No 6. **Are there strategies in place to communicate regularly with parents/guardians about their child's asthma?**
- Yes No 7. **Is there a process in place to communicate with staff, doctors, asthma educators, parents/guardians regarding the management of a child's asthma?**

If the answer to any question is "no," children with asthma in your setting may be facing obstacles to controlling their asthma. Uncontrolled asthma can hinder a child's attendance, participation, and progress in learning. It is important that staff, healthcare professionals, and parents work together to remove obstacles in order to promote children's health and development.

For more information about asthma visit: www.asthma.ca or www.on.lung.ca

To learn how you can make your childcare setting more asthma-friendly contact the **Public Health (School) Asthma Project Coordinator at 905.546.2424 ext. 6683.**

The Public Health School Asthma Project is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Elizabeth Conti RN BScN
School Asthma Project Coordinator
Public Health Services
City of Hamilton