

Youth Development, Inc.
Early/Head Start
Child Health and Safety

Policy Number:

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Agency Approval Date:

Feb. 9, 2008

Policy Council Approval

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Governing Board Approval

Date:

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COMPONENT: Child Health and Safety (1304.22)

SUBJECT: Monitoring Children Diagnosed or Newly Diagnosed with Asthma, and Air Pollution Affecting Children with Asthma

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: This policy is designed to ensure that a child who has been diagnosed with asthma receives appropriate monitoring while attending a YDI program.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Asthma is a common chronic inflammatory disease of the airways characterized by variable and recurring symptoms, reversible airflow obstruction, and bronchospasm. Common symptoms include wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE: Any child enrolled in an YDI program that has been diagnosed or newly diagnosed with asthma, or asthma like symptoms, will be subject to these policies and procedures:

Individual Health Care Plan – An individualized health care plan/Asthma Management plan should be developed by the parent/guardian and the child’s health care providers. The Health Care Plan should address the child’s health issues, the specific needs of the child, as well as provide specific instructions for each of the following:

- a. Specific triggers and symptoms of the child.
 - b. Diet or other related causative issues.
 - c. The actions to be taken in the event of asthma related incident/reaction.
 - d. All medications needed and specific procedures for administering them.
1. The parent/guardian of asthmatic child should:
 - a. Provide staff with complete medical history and current information about their child’s health and condition. This should be done by an Asthma Action plan. If child no longer has Asthma a doctor’s note will be needed that the child no longer has Asthma. If a child has Asthma but is not requiring medication to be given at school parent will need to get a doctor’s note stating why rescue medication is not needed in the center. If child has a doctor’s note on file that they have asthma but no medication is needed at school, and staff see that the child is having respiratory issues 911 and the parent will be called.

- b. Work with staff to develop an individualized health care plan which accommodates their child's health care needs.
 - c. Provide written documentation from a professional medical provider detailing medical care and medication administration instructions and protocols. Dosage on Asthma action plan must match the dosage on the prescription label.
 - d. Provide staff with all required medications approved by child's medical provider(s) which are to be taken at school, such as inhalers with spacers (refer to Administering Medication policy).
 - e. Replace medications as they expire or when they are completely used up.
 - f. Review policies and procedures related to asthma management.
2. YDI staff will:
- a. Review health records submitted by parents/guardians and physicians. Make sure it's up to date and is signed and dated by physician and parent.
 - b. Review Asthma Management policy with parents/guardians.
 - c. Notify the Health Manager, or other designated staff, to work with parents/guardians and or medical care professionals to develop/create center-based, individualized health care/Asthma Management plans for any child diagnosed with asthma or asthma related symptoms.
 - d. Receive training on how to recognize and manage asthma, as well as proper medication administration. Staff will monitor the medications expiration to make sure the medication is not expired. Staff will send out reminders of upcoming medication expiration three months prior to expiration.
 - e. Ensure that all staff that interacts with asthmatic children understand what asthma is, can recognize specific symptoms related to asthma, and fully understand specific protocols and actions to be taken in the event of an asthma related emergency.
 - f. Read and fully comprehend all aspects of all specifically designed individualized health care plans.
 - g. Include asthmatic children in all school related activities, as their health permits.
 - h. Coordinate with other center staff to ensure all medications are appropriately stored.
 - i. Keep medications in easily accessible and secure locations, out of reach of children.
 - j. Administer medications (as necessary) in accordance with medical provider(s) instructions.
 - k. Monitor children for any reactions to medications.
 - l. Provide asthma related trainings to bus drivers and monitors transporting asthmatic children.
 - m. Discuss with parents/guardians appropriate strategies for managing asthma symptoms/reactions on field trips.
 - n. Follow federal and state laws and regulations regarding sharing confidential, medical information on any child.
 - o. Will work with parents to identify all asthma related triggers for children.

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