



How Asthma Friendly Is Your Childcare Facility?

Children with asthma need proper support in a childcare facility to keep their asthma under control and be fully active. Use the questions below to find out how well your childcare facility assists children with asthma.

1. Is your childcare facility free of tobacco smoke at all times?
2. Does the childcare facility maintain good indoor air quality? Does it reduce or eliminate allergens and irritants that can make asthma worse? Allergens and irritants include pets with fur or feathers, mold, dust mites (in carpets and upholstery,) cockroaches and strong odors or fumes from such products as pesticides, paint, perfumes, and cleaning chemicals.
3. Can children bring medications to your childcare facility as recommended by their doctor and parents? Who administers the medications?
4. Does your childcare facility have a plan of action in the event of an asthma emergency? Is it made clear what to do? Whom to call? When to call?
5. Does someone teach childcare staff about asthma, asthma management plans, and asthma medications? Does someone teach children about asthma and how to help a classmate who has it?
6. Do your maintenance and upkeep procedures take into consideration the health and safety of asthmatic or allergic children?

If the answer to any question is "no," children may be facing obstacles to asthma control. Out of control asthma can hinder a student's attendance, participation, and progress. Staff, health professionals, and parents can work together to improve the quality of life and performance for children with asthma.

The American Lung Association of Central California has programs to help parents, personnel and children understand the control of asthma. Each of these programs is based on the latest information from the National Institute of Health. Please call us at (559) 222-4800 or 1-800 LUNG USA for more information.

