



MEDIA RELEASE

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Child Care Centres Combat Asthma

Linda Edwards, director of Magic Moon Child Care knows that in many children, a wheeze or cough is a sign of something more serious than the common cold.

Asthma affects around one in nine children and those aged one to four years, like the tots in Linda's care, are the group most likely to be hospitalized for asthma.

Linda has taken steps to manage asthma at Magic Moon including arranging staff asthma first aid training, keeping medication for emergencies and communicating with parents to obtain the children's asthma information.

"Asthma is a serious and potentially very dangerous disease and it's also very individual, with symptoms and triggers varying from person to person," says Lisa Terlick, the Asthma Foundation of WA' education officer based at the Armadale Health Service.

"Child care centre owners and directors need to make sure they have a policy in place for managing asthma and that all their staff are able to spot and treat an asthma attack at their centre."

D'Vina Rawson, mother of Connor (5) and Tyler Wilkie (3), who attends the centre and has asthma, agrees.

"Knowing that I'm sending Tyler to a centre where staff can help him straight away if he has asthma is very reassuring."

Lisa encourages all child care owners and directors to take measures like Linda has, and to undergo Nationally Accredited training in Emergency Asthma Management- a seminar of which will be offered at the Armadale Health Service on May 26th.

Lisa also said that with winter around the corner, and with colds and viruses being a major trigger for asthma in children, now is a great time for child care centres and parents to learn about asthma and prepare for possible asthma emergencies.

Parents and child care staff interested in Emergency Asthma Management or any other asthma education are invited to call the Asthma Foundation of WA on 9289 3600.

ENDS

Photograph attached. Possible caption: Conner (5) helps Linda Edwards from Magic Moon Child Care Centre demonstrate her Asthma First Aids skills to mother D'Vina Rawson and brother Tyler (3).

For media enquiries or further information on asthma and our services please contact Lisa Terlick on 0412 905 144 or lisa.terlick@asthmawa.org.au
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