

Georgia Asthma Management Education in Childcare Settings (GAME-CS)

The GAME-CS curriculum was developed in follow-up to the *Care for Their Air* pilot conducted in 10 childcare centers in Macon and Valdosta. The *Care for Their Air* pilot was conducted during the spring of 2011 as a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, and Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office. The GAME-CS curriculum was designed for early childcare settings to provide the knowledge and resources needed to ensure that:

- Staff are knowledgeable about asthma and prepared to deal with an asthma emergency
- Children with asthma are identified and that communication with parents about the child's asthma symptoms and management is ongoing
- A healthy center environment is maintained and asthma friendly

Funded public health districts and community partners increase the availability of GAME-CS trainers within the state by facilitating Train-The-Trainer courses. These trainers offer the GAME-CS curriculum and technical assistance for achieving Asthma-Friendly Childcare Center Recognition in childcare centers across the state.

The Courses

Foundations of Asthma Management

This session explores the basics about asthma to include how asthma affects the lungs, what triggers asthma episodes, how to respond to an asthma emergency as well as recognizing symptoms and warning signs. This course also includes an overview of asthma medications.

Understanding Medications and Devices

This session gives an in-depth description of the medications and devices that are used for the treatment of asthma. In this course participants will learn how to properly identify asthma medications and their application. In addition, participants will learn to identify asthma devices and have hands-on demonstrations of their proper use.

Creating an Asthma-Friendly Environment

This session focuses on policy, systems and environmental changes that give rise to an asthma-friendly environment. Participants will learn the effects of both indoor and outdoor air quality on asthma. It provides resources and tools for the centers to begin to adopt new policies and operating procedures that promote asthma wellness in their facility.

The Recognition*

Bronze

- Establish a small asthma leadership team.
- At least 60% of staff members have completed the Foundations of Asthma Management Course.
- Compile list of all asthmatic children and ensure an Asthma Action Plan is on file.

Silver

- Ensure that at least 2 staff members have completed the Understanding Asthma Medications and Devices Course.
- At least 80% of staff members have completed the Foundations of Asthma Management Course.
- Provide additional educational opportunities to parents.

Gold

- Contingency plans must be in place on days when air quality is poor.
- Center conducts a walk-through triggers assessment and develops an action plan and follow-up activities.
- Additional steps must be taken to improve indoor air quality.

Platinum

- Establish policies and practices that incorporate the criteria in previous levels of recognition.
- Policies that are included in the *Asthma Friendly Childcare Center Recognition Application* should be monitored annually.
- A copy of your centers policy and practices document(s) must be turned in with application for recognition.

*This is not a comprehensive list of requirements for recognition.

