



## LifeVac Policy & Procedure

This Policy runs alongside our First Aid, Accident & Incident and Emergency Procedure Policies. To provide prompt and effective treatment in the event of a choking incident.

At Little Dreams Nursery, we are committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of everyone in our setting. To enhance our emergency response to choking incidents, we also provide access to LifeVac, a non-invasive, life-saving airway clearance device. LifeVac is used only as a last resort when standard first aid methods (e.g., back blows and abdominal thrusts) have proven ineffective. It must never delay or replace the immediate administration of first aid or the calling of emergency services. Use of LifeVac is carried out only by trained staff and with prior parental consent.

At Little Dreams Nursery, we follow a clear protocol for responding to choking incidents and ensure that at least one member of staff from each room is trained in both traditional first aid and the proper use of the LifeVac device.

### **LifeVac Availability and Location**

- A LifeVac device is stored in a central, accessible location within the nursery: 1-3 room and the upstairs lunchroom.
- The device is available for use in choking emergencies only with prior parental consent.
- The LifeVac is to be used only by trained staff, including management.

### **Staff Training**

All staff:

- All staff members must complete initial training on the correct use of the LifeVac device as part of their induction process.
- Refresher courses will be held annually to ensure staff are up to date with emergency procedures.

**Training will include, but is not limited to:**

- How to assess if a child is choking
- When to use LifeVac versus other first aid methods
- How to safely administer the LifeVac device
- Post-choking care and monitoring

Training can also be re-watched and accessed via the link below:

<https://lifelvac.net/pages/lifelvac-training>

### **Emergency Choking Procedure**

In the event of a suspected choking incident:

1. **Assess severity of the child:** Determine if the child has a severe blockage by observing signs such as inability to speak, ineffective cough or gasping for air (Move to point 2.), with mild airway blockage effective coughing is usually observed this should still be monitored and coughing should be encouraged, if the blockage does not clear move to point 2 immediately.
2. **Administer first aid:** Perform initial first aid as per guidelines (e.g., back blows, abdominal thrusts) until the LifeVac device is available or emergency services arrive.
3. **Call for assistance:** One staff member other than the one performing First Aid should immediately call 999 and then call for management. Another staff member should retrieve the LifeVac device simultaneously to initiate first aid being performed; the LifeVac device should only be used by a trained member of staff. LifeVac retrieval or use should not prevent or delay initial First Aid or emergency services contact.
4. **Use the LifeVac device:** If the child's airway is still blocked and they are unable to breathe, the LifeVac should be used per the manufacturer's instructions/training and displayed with the LifeVac. (It must not be attempted more than 5 times in one course unless another person can perform CPR, in which case it can be used alongside CPR)
5. **If blockage is not removed:** repeat the sequence of initial First Aid and thereafter LifeVac.
6. At any point the child becomes unconscious, CPR should be performed.
7. **Monitor the child when obstruction is clear:** After the obstruction is cleared, continue to monitor the child for any signs of distress or difficulty

breathing. The emergency services will check the child over and may have the child and a staff member attend A & E.

### **Emergency Reporting & Parental Communication**

- All choking incidents, whether LifeVac was used or not, must be recorded on the choking log form, which parents and management will need to review and sign. Management will assess response effectiveness and whether any additional training or improvements are needed.
- Parents / Carers must be contacted as soon as possible after the incident.

### **Equipment Maintenance and Inspection**

- The LifeVac device must be inspected with the First Aid equipment checks monthly to ensure that it is in proper working condition.
- The device is only a one-use item as per the manufacturer's guidelines and must be replaced after use (this can be done free of charge via their website: <https://www.lifevac.uk/report-a-usage/>)
- The main device does not have an expiration date; however, the mask has a 2-year shelf life, which will be monitored via the First Aid equipment checklist to ensure it is within the recommended usage period.

### **Parent / Carer communication**

- Parents / Carers will be informed of the nursery's LifeVac policy during enrolment.
- A copy of this policy will be available for parents/carers to review via the nursery website or upon request.
- Parents / Carers will be allowed to ask any questions regarding the LifeVac device and its usage.
- Parents / Carers will need to sign the declaration permitting the use of LifeVac in an emergency on their child on the enrolment form before starting.