

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

It is important that you recognise the signs and symptoms of an asthma attack in your child. Be aware that the onset of an asthma attack can gradually appear over days. Early recognition will help prevent your child from getting worse and needing to come in to hospital.

Your child may have one or more of these symptoms during an asthma attack:



BREATHING HARD AND FAST

You may notice your child breathes faster or is having chest 'recessions' which is the pulling in of muscles in between the ribs or underneath the ribs.



WHEEZING

This is typically a high-pitched whistling noise heard on breathing in and out, a sound produced by inflamed and narrowed airways that occur in asthma.

COUGHING

Your child may have a worsening cough, particularly at night preventing your child from having restful sleep.



BREATHLESSNESS

Your child may appear to be less active, with refusal to eat or even restlessness. This may be a sign that they are too breathless to run around, eat or even sleep.

TUMMY OR CHEST ACHE

Be aware that younger children often complain of tummy ache when it is actually their chest that is causing them discomfort.



INCREASED USE OF THE RELIEVER INHALER

If your child is old enough, he/she may ask for the reliever inhaler more frequently during an attack. It is important that you follow your child's asthma action plan and know when to seek help when the reliever inhaler fails to improve your child's symptoms.