Emergency Management of Asthma in Child Care

Signs of a severe asthma attack
- wheeze, cough or shortness of breath worsens
- neck and chest are “sucked in” with each breath
- child has trouble walking or talking
- child is struggling to breathe, hunching over
- child appears confused
- lips or fingernails are blue or gray colored
- child has any of the above symptoms and no rescue medication is available

Follow the Child Asthma Plan
- give rescue medication(s) according to the Child Asthma Plan
- have an adult remain with the child
- if child is still having trouble breathing 5 – 10 minutes after taking rescue medication, re-administer the medications as directed in the Child Asthma Plan or CALL 9-1-1
- CALL 9-1-1 if there is no relief after re-administration of medications

What to do
- stop activity and help child sit upright
- stay calm and speak reassuringly to the child

Communicate
- Call the child’s parent and health care provider for more advice