



## Infection Control Policy

### Policy statement

At Play Cabin we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high standards of hygiene and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

### Procedures

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the preschool. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once afterwards.
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy.
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately.
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day.
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this.
- Clean all toys, equipment, soft furnishings, carpets and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, steam cleaner or by washing in the washing machine.
- Wash or clean all equipment used by children as and when required, including when the children have placed it in their mouth.
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the preschool. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.



- Ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.
- Will follow Government health guidance on any national outbreak of a virus/ pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis.

To minimise the spread of the Coronavirus we will also;

- Implement social distancing measures to avoid gatherings at pick-up/drop-off and minimise the risk of transmission during the course of interactions between staff and parents.
- Implement robust handwashing routines with extra handwashing stations. Hands will be washed thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap, and dried thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub/sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensure staff and children must wash/ sanitise hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- Encourage staff and, where age/stage appropriate, children not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for all staff and children
- Ensure that help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- Encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- Ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as antiviral/ antibacterial sprays (including surfaces that children are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, floor, sinks; wiping down toilets after each use.)
- Ensure spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (where possible) or ventilation units
- Prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- Take steps to ensure symptomatic individuals do not attend preschool
- Minimise contact and mixing as much as possible.
- Ensure play equipment is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously.
- Undertake a deep clean to contain the spread of infection if there is a confirmed case/ outbreak at the preschool.



- Allow only parent per family will be allowed in to preschool to support settling-in. Parents entering the preschool will need to wear a mask and shoe coverings.
- Reorganise the preschool room to create more space around activity tables and between areas of learning as much as possible.
- Remove equipment/ resources which are not easily washable or wipeable (e.g. some soft toys and furnishings)
- Carry out risk assessments for areas of learning which pose a higher risk of transmission e.g. play dough, sand & water play.
- Ask parents to supply water bottles and cutlery / utensils for their child so there is no sharing of utensils.
- Provide milk in individual cartons/ single serve containers.
- Provide parents with clear communication regarding the role they play in the safe operating procedures and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.
- Remind parents and staff to follow national advice on Covid-19 symptoms. We ask all staff and parents to follow government advice if anyone in their household displays any symptoms.
- Encourage parents, children and staff to travel by car, walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times.
- Stop bringing in external tutors to carry out special classes e.g. singing and yoga until further notice.
- Allow only essential visitors to the preschool e.g. external professionals supporting the development of a child.
- Require parents to wear masks if 2 metre social distancing cannot be achieved.