



INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

This policy will be reviewed regularly and amended pages will be circulated as required by the Managing Director.

Staff are requested to keep a copy of this policy, and to ensure that they have familiarised themselves with its contents

Signed:

LR Merrison

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INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

footprints@childcare promote the good health including oral health of all children through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow UK Health Security guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment and/or 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 virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with virus.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery.

General Cleaning

- It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the setting is always kept clean and hygienic. Staff will be expected to tidy up and keep the setting clean within the reasonable limits of their role and to report any areas where the setting may be falling below its set standards.
- Some *footprints@childcare* settings will have private arrangements with contract cleaners for general, daily cleaning. This is supplied and managed by the building management, for example, Netherton Family Wellbeing Centre or Kings Meadow Primary School.
- During periods of contagious outbreaks such as Norovirus and Covid-19, it will be necessary to enhance the daily cleaning schedule in settings. During which time, the company may seek to appoint a specialist sanitising company to carry out work to ensure the settings maintain a high level of cleanliness.
- Additional cleaning products will be supplied that contain both antibacterial agent and detergent.
- Colour coded cleaning materials will be supplied, for example, red cloths and mops for bathroom areas, blue cloths and mops for all other areas.

Handwashing

Handwashing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory diseases such as Covid-19.



The recommended method is washing hands for 20 seconds with liquid soap and warm water and drying hands with paper towels which should be disposed of in a lined waste bin. Children and staff are encouraged to wash hands before handling food and after using the toilet and at regular intervals throughout the day.

Coughing and Sneezing

Coughing and sneezing easily spreads infections. Children and staff should cover their mouths into their arm and/or use a disposable tissue. We recommend a 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach. Our nursery settings should ensure that they have a good supply of disposable paper tissues available for children and staff and that lined waste bins are provided for disposable.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Disposable non-powdered or latex free gloves and disposable plastic aprons must be worn when there is a risk of splashing or contamination of bodily fluids (for example, during nappy changing or when supporting a sick child). Eye shields should also be worn when there is a risk of splashing to the face. Staff should follow public health guidance on how to correctly put on and take off PPE equipment.

Cleaning of the Environment

Cleaning of the environment including toys should be frequent and thorough. Cleaning materials are supplied which are colour coded, for example, red cloths and mops are used in the toilet areas and blue cloths and mops are used in all other areas. Antibacterial products are used to sanitise children's nappy changing areas after each use.

During periods where infection rates are high, for example, covid-19 and norovirus. Areas of high contact such as surfaces, taps, door handles etc should be cleaned more regularly throughout the day.

If a child has been removed to an isolated area of the setting after displaying symptoms of an infectious illness, the area will be cleaned and sanitised immediately afterwards before being put back into use.

Cleaning of Blood and Bodily Fluids

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately (always wear PPE). When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines



both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per manufacturer's instructions and ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on effected surfaces. Never use mops for cleaning blood and bodily fluid spillages, use disposable paper towels, blue roll or absorbent granules and discard in a lined waste bin.

Laundry

Laundry should be dealt with in a separate dedicated facility. Soiled linen should be washed separately at the hottest temperature the fabric will tolerate. Wear PPE when handling soiled laundry. Children's soiled clothing should be double bagged to go home, never rinsed by hand.

Clinical Waste

Domestic and clinical waste should be disposed of in separate lined waste bins where possible. Both linings should be sealed and disposed of in outdoor waste bins at the end of each session. Bins are supplied by a contract cleaning company for the disposable of biohazardous waste such as nappies and feminine hygiene.

Vulnerable Children

Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children, these include those being treated for leukaemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. Nursery will have been made aware of such children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles, parvovirus B-19 and corona virus disease 2019 (covid-19). If exposed to either of these, the parent/carer must be informed promptly, and further medical advice sought. This guidance has been informed by the Department for Public Health and acts as general guidance. Some vulnerable children may need further precautions to be taken, which should be discussed with the parent/carer in conjunction with their medial team.