

## Infection control policy

At Woodlands Preschool it is our aim to minimise the spread of infection for staff and children through the implementation of controls which reduce the transmission and spread of germs. We aim to promote and maintain the health of children and staff through the control of infectious illnesses.

Please see poster from Public Health for further guidance on incubation periods and reporting of illnesses

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf#:~:text=Guidance%20on](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf#:~:text=Guidance%20on)

### Aims

We aim to control infection by providing on- going infection control training for staff (handwashing, food hygiene, cleaning).

Exclusion guidelines as recommended by the Preschool Environmental Health Officer apply in the case of all suspected infectious conditions. These guidelines will be distributed to all parents and staff.

Parents will be informed should staff, children or visitors to the centre report the presence of any contagious condition to the centre

### Procedures

#### Reporting/Recording of illness:

- A contingency plan is in place should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur we follow the public health guidelines. All staff roles and responsibilities regarding reporting procedures are clearly defined.
- Staff will report any infectious illness to the Preschool Owner / Manager.
- The Preschool Owner / Manager will report an outbreak of any infectious disease to the HSE Preschool Environmental Health Officer and the Public Health Department.

- The Pre school Provider or manager will record all details of illness reported to them by staff or reported by parents of a child attending the Service. These details will include the name, symptoms, dates and duration of illness.

#### Incubation period and return to Preschool

- we will follow our own guidelines of incubation periods as well as the public Health guidelines. Where we are unsure we will always research to clarify.
- A doctor's certificate may be required for certain conditions to ensure they are no longer contagious before children return to the service.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting until 48 hours after being symptom free.

#### Hand Hygiene:

- Hand washing facilities are always available for children and include hot (not exceeding 43 degrees) and cold water, liquid soap and paper hand towels.
- Hand washing facilities are available in all toilets, nappy changing areas, kitchens, and preschool rooms.
- Children are encouraged and reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after playing outside.
- Staff must wash their hands before preparing or serving food before feeding children before eating or drinking, after going to the toilet, after assisting children at the toilet, after nappy changing, after dealing with any body fluids, after cleaning procedures, after caring for sick children, after handling soiled clothing or items, after dealing with waste, after removing disposable gloves and/or aprons.
- Hand washing technique: Wet hands under hot water (not exceeding 43°C for children to prevent scalding), apply liquid soap, rub vigorously paying particular attention to palms, backs, wrists, fingernails and fingers and rubbing between each finger and around the thumbs, rinse, dry thoroughly using disposable paper towels and turn off taps using the paper towel. It is recommended for at least 20 seconds.

#### Toilets and potties:

- Toilet areas, including toilet handles, doors, toilet seats and wash hand basins are cleaned frequently throughout the day in accordance with the cleaning schedule and immediately if soiled.
- Potties are emptied into the toilet, cleaned (with hot water and detergent) and disinfected.
- Trainer seats are thoroughly cleaned after each use.

### Nappy Changing

- Nappy changing is only carried out in the designated nappy changing area.
- Parents will provide creams or lotions for their child, these will not be shared.
- The changing mat and area will be cleaned (with hot water and detergent) and disinfected and dried thoroughly after use.
- Disposable gloves are worn by staff when changing a nappy.
- Soiled nappies are placed in an impervious bag which is tied and disposed of
- The nappy changing area is cleaned in accordance with the cleaning schedule.
- Changing mats are regularly checked to ensure the cover is not cracked or torn. Changing mats will be discarded of in such an event.

### Bodily Fluid Spillage

- Spills of blood, vomit, urine or excreta will be cleaned up as quickly as possible. The area will be sectioned off if possible until the spill has been dealt with.
- Disposable plastic gloves are worn when cleaning up any bodily fluid spillage. Paper towels are used to clean up spillages and placed directly into a plastic bag for disposal.
- Ordinary household bleach freshly diluted (1 to 10 parts water), is used for cleaning and disinfection of bodily fluid spillages. (This solution should not make contact with skin. If accidental contact does occur, the skin, eyes or mouth should be flushed with cold water.
- If possible and safe to do so, diluted bleach will be poured directly over the spill, it will then be covered and mopped up with disposable paper towels .
- Disposable paper towels and gloves, are disposed of in a plastic bag and sealed.
- A supply of bleach and plastic bags are kept together in a secure place in each room in case of such an incident.

#### Cleaning

- All areas are cleaned regularly in accordance with a documented cleaning policy and rota. Toilets and hard contact surfaces (playroom tables) be cleaned frequently.
- All cleaning equipment is kept separate to each area and easily distinguished e.g. colour coded.
- Playroom tables are cleaned before being used for meal and snack times.

#### Toys and Equipment

- Toys and equipment will be cleaned according to the toy cleaning programme and schedule.
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned with hot water and detergent and disinfectant.

November 21

Stacey Humphrey

Manager