

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

### **6.2a Infection control**

#### **Policy statement**

At **Little Fingers Pre-school** we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance<sup>1</sup> 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 pre-school. 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 the tissue is disposed of
- 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- 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 and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the policy on 'Managing children who are sick or infectious' when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the pre-school. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.

In addition:

- The pre-school manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the pre-school
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the pre-school
- Periodically the pre-school will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the pre-school will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained

- We will follow any the Government health guidance, as well as legal advice and our information from our insurers 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.
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt government guidance for all visitors to minimise risk of further spreading the risk of infection
- The pre-school will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

This policy was adopted by

Little Fingers Pre-school

On

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Date to be reviewed

March 2022

Signed on behalf of the provider

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Name of signatory

Carolyn Coleman

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Chair

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### Further information

- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

## 6.2b Infection control

### COVID-19 Addendum

**Little Fingers Pre-school will continue to implement our infection control policy, through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread.**

In addition to this we will:

- Implement robust handwashing routines with extra stations, where possible. 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
- Clean 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 (consider face washing with children where appropriate)
- 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 detergents and bleach (including surfaces that children are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks; wiping down toilets after each use, light switches, bannisters)

Where possible, we ensure spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows).

- Good ventilation with fresh air is essential at all times in the setting.
- 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 pre-school
- Minimise contact and mixing as much as possible
- Ensure play equipment is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it.

### Children's temperatures

Routine testing of children's temperatures will not take place as per government guidelines. We 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If a child has a high temperature whilst at pre-school, parents will be called immediately. The child will be cared for in a separate room from the other children and the staff member will, in these cases, wear a face covering to minimise the spread of infection.

### Children's routine vaccines

Vaccines may cause a mild fever in children. This is a common and expected reaction, and isolation is not required unless coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected.

### Teething

Whilst teething can cause some known side effects such as flushed cheeks and sore gums, NHS guidelines state that fever is not a symptom of teething. Parents and carers should monitor side effects from a

vaccination or teething, and if they are concerned about their child's health they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111.

If coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, settings should follow the isolation advice.

### **Travelling to pre-school**

Children, parents, carers and staff may use public transport where necessary, but we encourage them to walk, cycle or scoot to and from the setting, wherever it is possible and safe to do so. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

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