

Infection Control Policy

Aim:

Playdays Preschool aims to ensure that all children have access to a place of safety and promote positive wellbeing. This policy provides guidance on infection control issues in the setting taking into account up to date guidance and advice from the Health Protection Authority, Health & Safety Executive and Public Health England (PHE). Playdays Preschool aims to prevent the spread of infections by ensuring routine immunisation, high standards of personal hygiene and practise, particularly handwashing, and maintaining a clean environment.

Method:

The Preschool Leader will promote good hygiene practises in the following areas to be complied with by all employees and volunteers. Where possible, staff should promote good hygiene practises to the children in a fun, informal and practical way, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Handwashing

Handwashing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. We will encourage children and staff to always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.

Coughing and sneezing

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, washing hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

Personal protective equipment

Disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable aprons must be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example nappy changing, first aid). Goggles should also be worn if there is a risk of splashing to the face. Correct PPE should be used when handling cleaning chemicals.

Cleaning of the environment

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment, is done frequently and thoroughly. Floors and surfaces are cleaned daily using detergent and toys and equipment at least half termly.

Cleaning of body fluids and body fluid spillages

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

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effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below. A spillage kit should be available for blood spills. Large spillages can be absorbed in sawdust or sand first.

Laundry

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

Clinical waste

Bio and clinical waste e.g. nappies and bodily fluids should be segregated from domestic waste. Used nappies, gloves, aprons, and soiled dressings should be stored in correct clinical waste bags (Yellow Bio Bags) in foot operated bins. All clinical waste must be removed by a registered waste contractor. All clinical waste bags should be less than two thirds full and stored in a dedicated, secure area whilst awaiting collection.

Sharps disposal

Sharps should be discarded straight into a sharps bin conforming to BS 7320 and UN 3291 standards. Sharps bins must be kept off the floor (preferably wall mounted) and out of reach of children.

Sharps injuries and bites

If skin is broken, encourage the wound to bleed and wash thoroughly using soap and water. Contact GP or go to A&E immediately.

Animals

Animals may carry infections, so hands must be washed after handling any animals. Ensure animals living quarters are kept clean and away from food areas. Waste should be disposed of regularly, and litter boxes not accessible to children. Children should not play with animals unsupervised. Veterinary advice should be sought on animal's welfare and animal health issues and the suitability of the animals as a pet. Reptiles are not suitable as pets in nurseries, as all species carry salmonella.

Vulnerable children

Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children. These include those being treated with leukaemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles, or parvovirus B19 and, if exposed to either of these, the parent/carer should be informed promptly and further medical advice sought.

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Female staff – pregnancy

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, this should be investigated according to PHE guidelines by a doctor. The greatest risk to pregnant women from such infections comes from their own child/children, rather than the workplace. Some specific risks are:

- Chickenpox if the woman has not already had the infection. Report exposure to your midwife and GP at time of exposure. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles.
- German measles (rubella). The woman should contact her midwife or GP immediately upon exposure. The infection may affect the developing baby if the woman is not immune and is exposed in early pregnancy.
- Slap cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn baby. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), inform your midwife or GP.
- Measles during pregnancy can result in early delivery or even loss of baby. If a pregnant woman is exposed she should immediately inform her midwife or GP.

Immunisation

We respect the parent's wishes regarding immunisation and understand it can be a controversial subject. Playdays preschool will encourage parents to immunise their child and catch up on any missed doses organised through the child's GP.

Staff members should undergo a full occupational health check before starting employment. This includes ensuring they are up to date with immunisations including MMR.

Immunisation Schedule

This is a complete routine immunisation schedule for children aged up to 14 years. Children who present with certain risk factors may require additional immunisations.

Two months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, Hib Pneumococcal Rotavirus vaccine	One injection One injection Given orally
Three months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib Meningitis C Rotavirus vaccine	One injection One injection Given orally
Four months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib Pneumococcal	One injection One injection
Between 12-18 months old	Hib/Meningitis C Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) Pneumococcal (PCV13)	One injection One injection One injection
2, 3, and 4 years old	Influenza	Nasal spray or one injection

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3 years and 4 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	One injection One injection
Girls aged 12 to 13 years	Cervical cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18. HPV vaccine	One injection
Around 14 years old	Tetanus, diphtheria, and polio Meningococcal C	One injection One injection

Exclusion Periods

Children who present unwell either at home or whilst at Playdays should be assessed as to whether it is in their best interests to attend the preschool. All children with rashes will be considered infectious and assessed by a doctor. Exclusion periods depend on the cause of the symptoms. All vomiting and diarrhoea episodes will be subject to a 48-hour exclusion period from the last bout they suffered. More information on exclusion periods for specific illnesses can be found in the Spotty Book in the Health & Safety folder.

Playdays Preschool will always inform parents via the notice board of any infectious illnesses as and when they are reported.