



Infection Prevention and Control

At Clare House Nursery, we are committed to providing a clean, safe and healthy environment for all children, staff, families and visitors. Effective infection prevention and control is an essential part of safeguarding children's health and wellbeing. We recognise that young children are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious illnesses and therefore take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of infection within our setting.

Infections can spread through respiratory droplets, airborne particles (for some viruses), direct physical contact, contaminated hands and contaminated surfaces. Good hygiene practices, effective cleaning procedures, appropriate ventilation and prompt management of illness all play an important role in reducing the spread of infection.

To maintain high standards of infection prevention and control we will:

- Ensure all staff, children and visitors practise effective hand hygiene using warm running water and liquid soap, particularly before eating or preparing food, after using the toilet, after nappy changing, after outdoor play, after contact with animals and after coughing, sneezing or wiping noses.
- Encourage children to develop good hygiene habits through age-appropriate teaching, modelling and daily routines.
- Ensure alcohol-based hand sanitiser is available for adult use where appropriate. Handwashing with soap and water will always be the preferred method when hands are visibly soiled or after contact with bodily fluids.
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including disposable gloves and aprons, whenever there is a risk of exposure to blood, bodily fluids, vomit, diarrhoea or other potentially infectious materials. PPE will be disposed of safely and hands washed thoroughly immediately afterwards.
- Clean and disinfect changing mats, potties, toilets, high-touch surfaces, toys, equipment and resources using cleaning and disinfecting products approved for use within early years settings and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Immediately remove from use any toy or resource that has been mouthed by a child until it has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected.
- Ensure each child has their own bedding or sleep sheet, which is laundered regularly and immediately if soiled, in accordance with our Safer Sleep Policy.
- Promote good respiratory hygiene by encouraging children and adults to "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" by using disposable tissues, safely disposing of them immediately after use and washing hands afterwards.
- Maintain appropriate ventilation throughout the nursery wherever possible, whilst ensuring children remain comfortable and safe.
- Follow strict food hygiene procedures in accordance with Food Standards Agency guidance when preparing, serving and storing food.
- Maintain adequate supplies of soap, disposable towels, tissues, cleaning materials, disinfectant products and PPE at all times.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces during periods of increased illness or outbreaks within the setting or local community.
- Follow the nursery's Sickness and Illness Policy and current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance regarding exclusion periods for infectious illnesses.

- Ask children, staff, parents/carers or visitors displaying symptoms of a contagious illness to refrain from attending the nursery until they are no longer infectious or meet the current UKHSA guidance for returning.
- Seek advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), NHS or other relevant health professionals whenever an outbreak or notifiable infectious disease is suspected.
- Ensure all staff receive infection prevention and control training during induction and through ongoing professional development.

Monitoring and Review

The Nursery Manager is responsible for ensuring that effective infection prevention and control measures are implemented throughout the nursery. Cleaning schedules, infection control procedures and hygiene practices are monitored regularly and reviewed following any outbreak, changes to legislation or updates to national guidance.

This policy should be read alongside the nursery's:

- Sickness and Illness Policy
- Personal Care Policy
- Nappy Changing Policy
- Food Hygiene Policy
- Safer Sleep Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Medication Policy

Clare House Nursery follows the current guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE), Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the NHS. Procedures will be reviewed and updated whenever national guidance changes to ensure best practice is maintained.

