



Infection Control

At Little Explorers we promote the good health of all children attending (including oral health) through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the UK Health Security Agency guidance, Health protection in children and young people settings (updated regularly) 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.

Effective infection control is an important part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

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.

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

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
- Staff wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when dealing with bodily fluids, including gloves and aprons, and follow correct disposal procedures in line with infection control guidance. 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 after contact with animals or animal environments. Staff support children to wash hands effectively using soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and appropriate cleaning and disinfecting products in line with COSHH guidance
- 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
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination. Where toothbrushing is implemented, we follow current oral health guidance, ensuring toothbrushes are stored hygienically, clearly labelled, and not in contact with each other.
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- 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 sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are ill and/or are contagious.

In addition:

- The nursery reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual who is considered contagious and may pose a risk to others.
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Our cleaning contractors are scheduled to clean the nursery every evening once the children have left on top of the clean already carried out throughout the day to ensure the utmost cleanliness and hygiene standards are maintained throughout the setting.
- Periodically each room in the nursery 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 nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained and inform our cleaning contractors
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and 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 outbreaks occur we will follow guidance from UKHSA and the Department for Education during any national outbreak or pandemic.

•We ensure rooms are well ventilated where possible to reduce the spread of airborne infections.

•Staff receive regular training and updates on infection control procedures.

•The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Infection Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak of an infectious illness, we will:

- Follow UKHSA guidance
- Inform parents and carers
- Implement enhanced cleaning procedures
- Exclude children or staff where required
- Seek advice from health protection teams where necessary

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if changes arise.

This policy was adopted on	Reviewed
24/01/2022	4th May 2026