



Infection control

Introduction:

At BCoT Nursery 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 Public Health Agency Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings guidance' which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from the nursery, when treatment and/or medication is required and where to get further advice on any given illness. Parents, carers and staff are to adhere to the following policy and procedures.

Procedures:

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 and face contact after a person or surface is contaminated with viruses.

To prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery our staff will:

- 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 has been 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 Person Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with other bodily fluids. Staff will dispose of these in the appropriate manner after use and will wash their hands immediately.
- 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, after playing outside, after being in contact with any animal and explain the reason for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, Milton steriliser or 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 any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Clean all mattresses with anti-bacterial spray after each use, this includes cot and floor mattresses
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling
- Follow the illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of infection in the nursery.
- Stay at home if they are contagious

Additional measures

- The nursery 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 nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishing 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
- The nursery will follow any Government health guidance, as well as legal advice and information from our insurers on any national outbreak of a virus/pandemic and keep the 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
- Where a contagious outbreak occurs, we will adopt Government guidance to minimise the risk of further spreading the infection
- The nursery 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 viruses are circulating
- The nursery will follow any additional guidance from the Government and Public Health England if and when required

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