

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.46

At Early Days Nursery School Ltd, 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 health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance¹ 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.

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 and having nose blowing stations.
- 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 wipeable aprons when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to clean these after use and wash their hands immediately afterwards.
- 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, using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine along with antibacterial fogging.
- 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 on individual hooks that are labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children.
- 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.
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes, whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well.
- Ask visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor.

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

- 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 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 for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery.
- 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.
- 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 contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, hand sanitiser, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are always maintained. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <i>23rd October 2024</i> | <i>Gina Chamberlain and Tracey Webb</i> | <i>October 2025</i> |