



Infection Control Policy

Wild Explorers Forest School has a duty of care and at all times strives to protect the health, safety and welfare of all its service users – children, visitors, parents / carers and staff. The Forest School ensures that this duty of care is maintained by having in place an infection control policy which allows staff to establish a safe and healthy environment. When children are young, because their immunity may not have fully developed, they are often highly susceptible to infectious diseases. In Forest School, where children are in close and frequent contact with each other, infectious diseases can spread rapidly. Fortunately, there are a number of ways to reduce the risk of infections in children. Routine immunisations can protect children against many severe and sometimes fatal infections. Providing children with a healthy diet also helps to ensure that their bodies are better equipped to combat infections and minimises the risks of other health problems, such as dental decay. Simple procedures can also be implemented in our setting to help protect children from disease, such as:

- Rigorous hygiene
- Exclusion of children and adults with infections, when appropriate, from the childcare setting
- Prompt and appropriate treatment of infections

The guiding principles of infection control and safe working systems come under the umbrella of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require employers to carry out risk assessments and to implement appropriate control measures to minimise risks. In the context of Forest School these could include:

- Personal protective clothing
- Hand washing facilities
- Safe waste disposal
- Facilities for managing outbreaks, e.g. of vomiting and diarrhoea

The main principles for achieving high standards of infection control are concerned with:

- reducing or eliminating sources of infection through thorough hygiene practices.
- preventing transfer of contamination from these sources
- educating staff and children about good hygiene practices.

Aim

To provide a safe environment where staff are aware of common infection control issues.

Implementation Strategies:

- Check premises are clean and safe before children arrive each day
- Establish a daily cleaning routine for the premises – nappy changing facilities, toilets.
- Provide suitable hand washing and drying equipment.
- Litter pick with children.

You can help raise children's awareness of good hygiene practices by teaching them about the importance of:

- Hand washing
- Cleaning teeth
- Nose wiping and disposal of tissues
- The spread of infection through coughing and sneezing
- Using the toilet correctly.

Hand washing

Hand washing is essential to ensure that contamination and infection carried on hands through activities such as toileting, nappy changing and general play is eliminated. Staff should ensure that:

- All children are instructed on how to wash their hands properly and educated as to the importance of why we wash our hands.
- They are a good role model.
- Children wash their hands or use sanitiser when unable to fully wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly before eating.
- They supervise children's hand washing on a regular basis to ensure that they are observing good practice.

Hand washing procedures

1. Wet hands with warm spray water.
2. Apply a small amount of liquid soap.
3. Rub hands together vigorously ensuring soap and water is applied to all surfaces of the hands. Be sure to rub between fingers, under fingernails and around the tops of the fingers, the palms and the back of the hands.
4. Rinse hands under spraying water.
5. Dry hands, preferably using disposable paper towels.
6. Clean the spray bottles and put inside the cabin away
7. Spray bottles to be used with warm clean water. No taps as this caused wasteful water and we bring it in daily.

Alternatively, children and staff will use hand sanitiser provided.

Toilet Hygiene

Staff should enable children to understand the importance of good toilet hygiene in the elimination of cross-infection. The toilets will be cleaned each evening by the staff and throughout the day as and when needed.

Staff should:

- Check toilets in the morning before children arrive and regularly throughout the day to ensure that they are clean. If toilets have become soiled, staff should use the appropriate protective clothing (gloves) before cleaning.
- Ensure that there is an adequate supply of hand sanitiser.
- Ensure that children are supported in implementing good toilet hygiene procedures including using the toilet and hand washing, and that staff are aware of which children require support.
- Discuss with children the importance of good hygiene in the toilet area and ask them to report to staff if the toilets require to be cleaned. This will encourage children to consider toilet hygiene on an ongoing basis.

Nappy Changing

Staff should:

- Ensure changing facilities are maintained in good order and to a high level of cleanliness with all of the appropriate equipment at hand.
- Ensure that they have access to all of the equipment they need to change a child's nappy before beginning this process
- Wash hands or use sanitiser thoroughly before and after each nappy change (including after disposal of nappy). Wear disposable gloves if soiled.
- Use a waterproof changing mat.
- Clean any surface that is soiled during changing with a detergent solution followed by a disinfectant and then dry the surface.
- Dispose of nappies safely by placing them in an individual nappy sack before placing them in a bin bag

Food and Kitchen Hygiene

All staff responsible for food preparation and handling should receive appropriate training that includes storing, preparing and serving food safely and hygienically.

Staff should:

- Discuss with children the importance of ensuring that surfaces and equipment are spotlessly clean before use. Children can assist in the process of cleaning surfaces etc.
- Ensure that children wash, wipe or sanitise hands properly before handling food and discuss with them why they need to do this.
- Check used by dates on food and ensure that all packaging is intact before use.
- Clean and disinfect chopping boards regularly

Immunisation

In our contract we will ask parents / carers if children are registered with a GP and have received their vaccinations. GP details will be recorded on Blossom in main contacts.

Exclusion Periods

A number of communicable illnesses require that children be excluded from childcare settings. There is a guide to exclusion periods and notifiable diseases from the Health Protection Agency (HPA), printed off in the cabin.

Staff should:

- Inform management and parents / carers of the arising of infections in Forest School.
- Ensure that parents / carers know that they must contact Forest School if their child has any illness or condition.
- Regularly update contact numbers and children's medical details.
- Ensure that emergency contacts are up to date.
- Keep abreast of current health issues.
- Seek advice from the local CCDC (Consultant in Communicable Disease Control).

First Aid

National standards state that childcare settings should have a first aid box complying with the Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981. The contents must be checked regularly against a list and replaced by a designated staff member.

Staff should:

- Wash or sanitise hands thoroughly after performing first aid procedures.
- Clean up any blood spills immediately.
- Ensure that first aid training is updated regularly.
- Ensure that parents / carers are aware of Forest School policy on first aid procedures.
- Ensure dosage of medications are double checked by another member of staff

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