

COVID-19 POLICY

WRITTEN BY RACHAEL DUNPHY | DATE: 16/09/2023

During these uncertain and ever-changing times, and as the nation takes small steps to come out of lockdown, my absolute priority is to keep my setting safe for all of my family and yours. I have developed a policy to clarify the current requirements, and as and when the government guidelines change, I will make adaptations to this policy. This policy will remain in place until otherwise stated.

This is my home and as such, I cannot create a clinical environment, and nor would I want to. However, from this week, I will be taking even further measures to keep us all as safe and well as I can.

Whilst your child is in attendance at my setting, I will be introducing a doorstep drop off and pick up, while this is not ideal, it is necessary to ensure the setting has the least exposure as possible, to minimise risk. I may require a staggered drop off and pick up, but this will be confirmed if required. Adults that are not working or part of my home, will not be able to enter the property.

When children arrive, they will be required to leave their shoes and coats etc. at the door in the hallway.

I will be introducing additional hand washing, as well as the normal hand washing. For example, handwashing will continue when they are dirty, after using the toilet, prior to eating, but additionally, children will also be required to wash their hands upon arrival, after physical contact with others and any other situation that lends itself to this requirement. Your child may bring a suitable hand cream for sore hands. This should be labelled with his/her name.

During this period of time, I am afraid you will not be able to bring toys from home to the setting under any circumstances. All toys used in the setting will be disinfected at the end of each day or as and when necessary throughout the day. Toys that cannot be easily disinfected will not be used.

There will be additional cleaning on top of my normal routine. In particular high contact areas such as handles, tables, taps, light switches etc will be disinfected regularly throughout the day. Toilets will be disinfected after each use. Please refer to my risk assessment for further clarity.

I will ensure that children have regular access to soap and hand sanitizer.

Any bedding or children's clothes stored or used in my setting will be washed at a high temperature.

I will not be administering Calpol at this time for any reason, unless your child has a doctor's note, as this can mask a temperature. Please do not send your child if you have administered Calpol in the four hours prior to arrival. You must inform me of any medication provided 48 hours prior to attendance. If children show any symptoms, they must be picked up immediately, and your emergency back-up will be called if required. Where possible your child will be kept away from others until they are picked up.

If your child shows any symptoms, or I have cause to believe that they are not well, you will be required to collect them immediately and keep them at home for 14 days or until they have a negative test. Household members should also isolate for 14 days. If you choose not to test your child, they may not return to the setting until the 14 day period is complete. If they are still showing any symptoms of illness after this period, they will be unable to return to my setting until I am confident that they are no longer showing symptoms of illness. You are liable for your standard fees during this period as per your contract.

If one person is sent home with symptoms, the setting will remain open.

If the illness is confirmed as Covid-19, the setting will be closed for 14 days. No charges will apply during this time. The rest of the children in the setting should self-isolate for 14 days, but household members of those children are not required to unless symptoms develop.

This is in line with the guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please ensure you update me with your emergency backup contact details if your existing ones are within the vulnerable group and unable to collect as originally organised prior to Covid-19.

I will not have social interaction with other settings during this period; I will, however, be able to partake in normal outdoor walks etc. whilst ensuring social distancing and common-sense measures.

This policy is written in line with the following guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

If you have any questions about my policy/procedures or would like to make any comments, please ask.

SIGNED

DATED
