

Covid-19 Policy Statement

Covid-19 is an illness caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

This policy and associated risk assessment have been introduced to limit the spread of the virus within our settings.

Who is at risk?

All patrons of the setting are at risk including staff, children, parents /carers of the children attending, any other individuals involved in the day to day operation of the setting. Some groups of people are more vulnerable to the virus and these include the elderly, pregnant women, and those with existing underlying health conditions.

It is virtually impossible to socially distance young children in our settings and we understand that they will be coughing, sneezing and hugging and will want to naturally explore resources and socialise with their peers. Even if we keep children in keyworker groups, we will not be able to keep them 2 meters apart, but we have put additional measures in place to help with this.

What controls are required to limit the spread of the virus?

The following controls are in place at all times:

1. Handwashing

- All staff and children will be required to wash their hands with warm soapy water and then sanitise immediately upon entry to the setting. Children will be supported with hand washing by a staff member to ensure that it is done for a minimum of 20 seconds and all areas of the hands are washed.
- Hand washing facilities will always be available with soap, water, and sanitiser in place.
- Paper towels will be used to dry hands, and these will be placed in a lidded bin.
- Gel sanitisers will be available in any areas where there are no immediate handwashing facilities.
- All children will be reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue which will be disposed of immediately in a lidded bin. We encourage children to follow 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and to avoid touching the face, eyes, nose or mouth wherever possible. Tissues are made available throughout the settings.

1. Cleaning

- Our staff and regular evening cleaner will thoroughly clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, furniture, and toys. Rigorous checks will be carried out by management to ensure that the procedures are always being fully adhered to.

- All resources will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after use.
- Soft toys and role play clothing have been removed from our settings leaving only resources which are easily cleaned.
- Bedding will remain allocated to each individual child and will be washed at the end of every week as usual.

1. Social Distancing

The recommended distance for safe distancing is 2 metres however this is difficult to maintain in an early years setting.

- Parents /carers will not be permitted to enter the setting. Drop off and collection of the children will now take place at the gate in the garden area.
- Parents will be asked to practice safe distancing of 2 metres whilst waiting to drop off and collect their children. We appreciate that this will increase the time waiting but please be patient.
- Group sizes will reflect the number of staff available to ensure that groups are kept as small as possible.
- Staff will of course be permitted to assist children with toileting and eating and comfort them if they are distressed.
- Staff will always support children washing their hands, particularly before and after lunch and snack times.
- Some group activities will be suspended including sand play, water play, play dough, cooking activities and any others which pose a high risk of contamination. Unless child numbers are such that individual activity trays are possible.
- Outdoor play will be encouraged as much as possible and windows or doors will be kept open at all times during the day.

1. Preventing infection from outside

- Staff must wear face coverings while speaking to parents/carers but will not wear face coverings during the day whilst with children.
- No toys from home are to be brought into nursery. (Comfort items will be allowed in Day Nursery).
- All bags brought from home will be sprayed with sanitiser prior to entering the settings.
- Parents are asked to provide nappies, wipes, spare clothes etc. in a sealed bag which

can be easily wiped clean before being stored in the nursery.

- No person other than staff will be permitted entry into the nursery at any point through the day unless a prior appointment has been arranged with the Senior Leadership Team.
- Staff using public transport to travel to work will be asked to wear a face covering for the journey.
- Staff will not be permitted to travel to or from work in their uniforms if they use public transport.
- We have suspended the use of the daily communication books. If parents wish to pass on messages to nursery, they are able to speak to a member of the team on arrival or send an email to admin@letsstartwell.co.uk, or private message through our Facebook page.

1. Sickness

- We will not take temperatures of staff or children upon entry to the nursery as this is not a current recommendation; however we will, as always, remain vigilant to any signs of a temperature.
- Any person with a temperature above 37.8 is asked not to come to the nursery.
- If a child becomes unwell with a continuous new cough or a high temperature or a change in their sense of taste or smell, they will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible to follow the stay at home guidelines. The member of staff who cares for this child will wear a facemask, gloves and an apron until the child is collected.
- Any staff who display symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and a test will be arranged for them, they will not be permitted to return to work until the results are back and have shown negative and they are well enough to return to their role.
- If any member of staff or any child receives a positive test result, the nursery will inform everybody in that specific group and follow guidance from Cheshire West and Cheshire Public Health England Team.
- Children and staff with any signs of illness should not attend nursery.

1. Government Guidelines

- All staff have been asked to observe all current guidelines in respect of social distancing when not at work.
- We ask that all parents also observe current guidelines in respect of social distancing at home as well as in nursery and inform the setting of any symptoms immediately.
- **We ask that all parents/carers inform the setting immediately if their child has been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19.**

