Playhouse Nursery

Playhouse Nursery – Infection Control Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to prevent and control the spread of infections within the nursery. Young children are particularly vulnerable to infections due to developing immune systems and close contact during play and learning activities. This policy ensures that staff follow consistent hygiene and infection control procedures to protect children, staff, and visitors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all nursery staff, volunteers, students, children, and visitors within Playhouse Nursery. It covers all areas of the nursery, including classrooms, play areas, kitchen areas, bathrooms, and outdoor spaces.

3. Responsibilities

Nursery Manager

* Ensure infection control procedures are implemented and monitored.
* Provide staff training on hygiene and infection prevention practices.
* Maintain records of illness, outbreaks, and cleaning schedules.
* Ensure adequate supplies of cleaning and hygiene materials.

Staff Members

* Follow hygiene and infection control procedures at all times.
* Encourage and supervise children in good hygiene practices.
* Report any signs of illness in children or staff immediately.
* Clean and disinfect toys, surfaces, and equipment regularly.

Parents and Guardians

* Inform the nursery if their child is unwell or has a contagious illness.
* Keep children at home when they are sick according to the nursery exclusion guidelines.

4. Hand Hygiene

Proper handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection.

Staff and children must wash their hands:

* Before and after eating or handling food
* After using the toilet or assisting a child with toileting
* After changing nappies
* After outdoor play
* After coughing, sneezing, or wiping noses
* After contact with bodily fluids
* Before and after administering first aid

Correct Handwashing Procedure

1. Wet hands with warm running water.
2. Apply liquid soap.
3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds, including between fingers and under nails.
4. Rinse thoroughly.
5. Dry with disposable paper towels.

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5. Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning reduces the risk of infection spreading.

Daily Cleaning Includes:

* Disinfecting tables, chairs, and frequently touched surfaces.
* Cleaning bathrooms, sinks, and toilet areas.
* Washing toys that children place in their mouths.

* Sanitizing changing stations after each use.

Weekly Cleaning Includes:

* Deep cleaning of play equipment.
* Cleaning storage areas and shelves.
* Washing soft toys and fabrics where applicable.

Approved disinfectants and cleaning products must be used according to manufacturer instructions.

6. Toy and Equipment Hygiene

* Toys must be cleaned regularly and immediately if contaminated.
* Toys used by babies or toddlers must be disinfected daily.
* Soft toys should be machine washed regularly.
* Broken or damaged toys must be removed immediately.

7. Food Hygiene

* Staff must wash hands before food preparation and serving.
* Gloves must be worn when handling ready-to-eat foods if required.
* Food preparation areas must be kept clean and sanitized.
* Food must be stored at correct temperatures and within expiry dates.
* Children must not share utensils, cups, or food.

8. Nappy Changing and Toileting

Staff must follow hygienic procedures when changing nappies:

* Wear disposable gloves and apron.
* Clean and disinfect the changing surface after each use.
* Dispose of nappies in designated sealed bins.
* Wash hands thoroughly after each change.

Children must be encouraged to wash hands after using the toilet.

9. Managing Illness

Children or staff showing symptoms of illness should not attend the nursery.

Common symptoms requiring exclusion include:

* Fever
* Vomiting or diarrhea
* Rash with fever
* Persistent cough
* Contagious infections (e.g., conjunctivitis, chickenpox)

If a child becomes unwell during the day:

* The child will be separated from other children where possible.
* Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
* The child must be collected as soon as possible.

10. Managing Infectious Disease Outbreaks

If multiple cases of illness occur:

* The Nursery Manager will monitor the situation closely.
* Enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented.
* Parents will be informed if necessary.
* Health authorities may be contacted if required.

11. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff must use appropriate PPE when necessary, including:

* Disposable gloves
* Aprons
* Face masks (if required during outbreaks)

All PPE must be disposed of safely after use.

12. Training

All staff will receive infection control training during induction and regular refresher training to ensure compliance with nursery hygiene standards.

13. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required due to updated health guidance or operational changes.

Policy Review Date: 05/03/2026