



Killermont Early Years Centre Infection Control Policy



Rational

Killermont EYC has a “duty of care” and requirement in law to provide a safe environment for the children in our care and the staff in our employment.

Aims

We aim to provide a safe environment for all those that attend and to minimise the risk of infection through robust procedures.

Outcomes

Killermont EYC have a robust set of procedures that ensure infection control measures are followed and all service users health and safety is a priority.

Procedures

To minimise the spread of infection within the EYC, we will follow standard infection control precautions as recommended by the NHS in the Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings Document.

Risk Assessments

- We will carry out regular risk assessments appropriate to our setting in regards to infection and risk of infection, in doing so we will be taking account of the environment, daily routines, regular activities, day to day practices, and other less regular practises. (See risk assessments)
- We take into consideration the risk to all service users, especially those that are more vulnerable to infection e.g. pregnant woman, children/adults with conditions or on medication that makes them more susceptible to infection.
- In order to facilitate this, parents are requested on their child’s admission to the EYC to inform of us of any relevant pre-existing conditions and to inform us of illnesses as they occur. Individual children’s risk assessments are then put in place. Information gathered from the Risk Assessments will be shared with all staff and with children and parents as appropriate in order to improve infection, Prevention and control practice.

Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)

- All staff will be fully trained in these procedures and training refreshed at least annually. This training will include information on how infection spreads.
- The 'chain of infection' is displayed as appropriate for staff and parental information.

Hand hygiene –

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
- All staff act as good role models
- Children wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they appear dirty, before eating, after blowing their noses, if they have been playing with materials that are susceptible to cross infection of germs e.g. sand, playing outdoors or after contact with animals
- They supervise children's hand washing on a regular basis to ensure that they are observing good practice
- Posters/photos illustrating the correct method of hand washing, are displayed throughout the setting in the appropriate areas for children and adults
- Staff use Handy Andy as a way to promote good hand hygiene with children

Hand washing procedures

1. Wet hands under warm running 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 running water.
5. Dry hands, preferably using disposable paper towels.
6. Turn the tap off. Try to avoid touching the tap directly, as there is a risk of recontamination. For rigorous hygiene, turn the tap off using a paper towel.

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 facilities management team and monitored by the staff throughout the day and soap and paper towels replenished when required.

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 (plastic apron and gloves) before cleaning
- A separate mop and cloth should be used for the toilet area
- The mop should be rinsed thoroughly
- Ensure that there is an adequate supply of soap and paper towels
- Ensure that children are supported in implementing good toilet hygiene procedures including using the toilet, flushing and hand washing and that staff are aware of which children require support within their room
- 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

Food and Kitchen Hygiene

All staff responsible for food preparation and handling should receive appropriate training that includes storing, preparing, cooking 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 their hands properly before handling food and discuss with them why they need to do this
- Wash salads and raw vegetables well to remove any traces of dirt or insects
- Check used by dates on food and ensure that all packaging is intact before use
- Keep perishable foods in the fridge
- Clean and disinfect chopping boards regularly
- Record and serve food at the right temperature
- Support the house-keeper to clean the dishwasher and hot-holding unit on a daily basis

Respiratory and cough hygiene –

- Children are encouraged to cough and sneeze into tissues or the crease of their elbow and are discouraged from touching their eyes, mouth, nose, where they have they are then supported to wash their hands
- Playrooms have windows open at all times to allow good ventilation and the circulation of fresh air at all times

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- We wear single use aprons and gloves for nappy changing, cleaning up vomit/ blood/ bodily fluids, or any other activity that involves the risk of contamination
- We are now only using nitrile gloves as advised by HPS and Care Inspectorate
- The safe putting on and removal of PPE is displayed for staff

Cleaning of the environment and Equipment

- Each learning zone has a daily cleaning routine and all staff follow robust cleaning procedures and complete cleaning schedules daily
- The EYC is cleaned every evening after operational hours
- All toys and equipment are well maintained and are safe for use. The cleaning of equipment is monitored and done throughout the day (after use)
- Whilst Dealing with spillages of blood and body fluids, legislation and guidance is adhered to (See Cleaning Procedure)
- Management of waste – this includes nappy waste and the disposal of sharps (Waste Procedure)
- Laundry – Is washed daily, at appropriate temperature for the item (Laundry Procedure)

Tooth brushing

- Staff are trained in oral health and practises will be observed to ensure they are maintaining good standards in line with Childsmile. Failure to meet standards will require staff to be re trained.

Food and kitchen hygiene

- We recognise that Food Safety is our responsibility and SICPs will be followed at all times in the preparation and serving of food, In line with good practices shared in Cooksafe, HACCP and Setting the Table: Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards for Early Years Childcare Providers in Scotland (NHS Health, Scotland, 2015)
- All staff will have a basic food hygiene certificate (REHISS) that is up to date, again if any poor practice is observed, the staff member will require to be retrained.

- Food Safety and good Practice training is delivered annually to staff (or earlier if required)

Toys and Equipment

Toys and play equipment are a source of fun and learning for children but toys that are inappropriate for the child's age and stage of development or resources in poor repair can lead to injury. Further to this, toys that are frequently shared between children can become a source of infection.

Staff should:

- Ensure that any resources purchased are age and stage appropriate and carry the safety mark (CE, BS or BSI)
- Ensure that resources purchased are able to be cleaned
- Check toys regularly for broken bits and rough edges. Discard any toys that are unsafe
- Remove dust regularly, dust can trigger asthma attacks and harbour germs
- Clean toys as according to the toy rota and whenever they appear dirty or soiled
- Clean hard, plastic toys by washing them with detergent and drying thoroughly
- Disinfect hard plastic toys that cannot be washed
- Launder dirty soft toys in a washing machine
- Store toys in a clean container or cupboard
- Sandpits to be raked and checked before use outdoors and changing the sand regularly
- Carry out appropriate risk assessments on activities and the environment in which they take place
- Clean and disinfect toys during an outbreak of illness
- Immediately clean and disinfect toys that are contaminated with bodily fluids (e.g. blood, saliva, mucus)
- Destroy contaminated soft toys
- Wash their hands after handling contaminated toys
- Ensure that children wash their hands after playing outdoors, in the sand or water or in the ball pool
- Replace soft modelling materials and dough regularly
- Discourage children from putting toys into their mouths

Floors, Walls and Furniture

Staff are responsible for ensuring that any spillages are dealt with immediately.

Staff should:

- Wear disposable gloves to clean up bodily fluids or spillages
- Use disposable towels to clean up the spill and dispose of the towels in a sealed plastic bags
- After removal of spillage, clean the area within 3 meters of the spillage using a freshly prepared solution of detergent and water
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Ensure disinfectant is stored in a locked cupboard

Laundry

Fabrics which are used communally e.g. cushions, dressing up clothing, blankets etc. can become a source of cross contamination and must be laundered regularly.

Staff should:

- Decontaminate fabrics which may have become contaminated through bodily fluids by washing at a temperature no less than 60 degrees
- If lower temperatures are necessary, use a chemical disinfectant in the wash
- Use products that remove organic residues (e.g. faeces, urine and blood stains) as these can harbour germs
- Launder kitchen fabrics separately from those used in the playrooms
- Wash hands after contact with soiled linens
- Make sure dirty laundry is transported and stored safely
- Ensure that children cannot gain access to laundry

First Aid

- We recognise the requirement by law to have a qualified practitioner in the service at all times and the requirement to have appropriate First Aid resources/equipment in the service
- In line with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) the nursery will have a British **Standard** (BS) 8599 approved First Aid box available
- The service will have a minimum of 1 qualified First Aider in the service at a time

Staff should:

- Wash hands thoroughly after performing first aid procedures
- Clean up any blood spills immediately (within 3 meters of spillage)
- Ensure that first aid training is updated regularly
- Ensure that they are aware of the nursery policy on first aid procedures

Illness - Early warning signs of infection

- Staff will inform the EYC manager/Senior Early Years Worker if a child has any of the following symptoms:
 - appears unwell (feels hot or looks flushed);
 - complains of feeling ill for example cough, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches and headaches; diarrhoea and/or vomiting; blood in their faeces; or unexplained rash.
- The child should be kept apart from other children and their parent will be asked to collect them as soon as possible
- On collection the parent should be encouraged to consult their GP (if appropriate) especially if the child's symptoms persist, they may also be advised of any action/absence that is required in line with NHS Exclusion Criteria guidance
- If more than one child within the setting displays these symptoms, then advice will be sought from the local NHS Health Protection Team (HPT).

Outbreaks of infection in childcare settings

- We will ensure that standard infection control procedures are in force at all times.
- Should there be an outbreak of infection, our outbreak of infection policy will be followed.
- The Care Inspectorate will be notified if there are two or more cases of the one infectious disease

Policy Updated	March 26
Review Date	March 27
Reviewed By:	Patricia Ross
Documents	Document Links
Quality Improvement Framework	Leadership Children are Supported to Achieve
Health and Social Care Standards	5.2, 5.4, 5.17, 5.18, 5.19, 5.22
Realising the Ambition	3.2 & 3.4
UNCRC	Article 24
Public Health Scotland	Health protection in children and young people settings, including education – March 2024
Childsmile – National standards (2015)	
HACCP – COOKSAFE	
Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)	

