



Staying Safe at Nursery

Staying Safe at Nursery

As a parent you will have many questions and concerns regarding your child's return to nursery. This overview will highlight the enhanced procedures that will be applied across all our nurseries to minimise the risk of infection during COVID-19 and keep your child safe.

These procedures are based on Government guidance including advice from the Department for Education and NHS, therefore they will be updated subject to further Government directives.

The Department for Education states that;

'Early Years settings have been open to all children since 1st June (2020) and there is no evidence that the early years sector has contributed to a rise in virus cases within the community. Early Years childcare providers were the first to have restrictions lifted in recognition of the key role they play in society. Nursery staff across the country have worked hard to keep settings open through the Pandemic so that young children can be educated, and parents can work.'

The earliest years are the most crucial point of a child's development and attending early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children's social and emotional development.'



Contents

- o Preparing your Child to Return to Nursery
- o Attendance
- o Dropping Off and Collection
- o Communication
- o Social Distancing Between Rooms
- o Cleaning and Hygiene Practices
- o Well-being and Education
- o Visitors to the Nursery
- o Our Staff



Preparing your Child to Return to Nursery

You will receive an information leaflet from your child's nursery that highlights the staff members that will be on duty and the playrooms that will initially be open when your child returns. This can be shared with your child to support their transition back to nursery.

Please prepare your child by explaining that the following may have changed:

- o If your child brings an item from home to support their well-being, it will, where possible, be appropriately cleaned. If this is not possible, we would kindly request that the items are left at home.
- o If your child wears a homemade non-disposable face mask, please remove it before entering nursery, and take it home with you.
- o Where possible please avoid travelling to and from nursery on public transport and continue to minimise social interactions, as per the Government guidance. If you travel using public transport, face coverings must be worn in line with the Government guidance
- o If you have walked to nursery, all children's buggies, scooters, bikes etc can be stored in the Nursery Buggy shed or similar. Unfortunately these items will not be able to be stored within the nursery building.



Attendance

In line with Government guidance, only those children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period, may attend the nursery. Please ensure that your child is symptom free prior to being dropped off at nursery.

We reserve the right to check your child's temperature using a non-contact scanning thermometer once settled in the playroom should it be deemed necessary. Staff will also use the device to check your child's temperature during attendance at nursery should we have any concerns regarding your child's health.

A child who develops any of the following symptoms whilst at nursery or at home, or lives in the household with someone who develops any of the following symptoms, will be excluded from nursery:

- o a high temperature (37.8°C)
- o a new continuous cough
- o a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

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Attendance

Action taken by the nursery if a child presents symptoms of COVID-19

Our nurseries always have Qualified First Aiders on site and will follow the steps below:

- o If your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, you will be called immediately and whilst awaiting collection, your child will be moved to an allocated room within the nursery that it is not used for the purpose of caring for other children.
- o They will be isolated with one staff member, who will wear gloves, an apron and a face covering and in some cases, an eye protection/visor. Please do not worry your child is in safe hands and our staff member will do everything they can to keep your child calm and happy.
- o The playroom where your child was based will be closed and all children will be moved to an alternative space.
- o All surfaces and objects will be cleaned with anti-bacterial spray and disinfected using disposable cleaning materials.
- o Waste from staff/children considered to be presenting symptoms of COVID-19, will be double bagged and disposed of in accordance with Government guidance.
- o If clinical advice is needed, the nursery staff, parent or carer will be advised to go online to NHS 111 (or call 111 if they don't have internet access).
- o You will be asked to request a COVID-19 test for your child.
- o If there is a confirmed case in one of our nurseries, Public Health England will be immediately contacted and their advice followed.

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Attendance

Government guidance states:

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Children will be required to self-isolate for 10 days prior to returning to Nursery if they travel to a country not covered by the travel corridor exemption. This period of self-isolation will also apply if a journey involves a transit stop in a country not covered by the travel corridor exemption - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Under the Test to Release for International Travel scheme people returning to England who need to self-isolate will be able to take a COVID test with a private test provider to see if they can end their self-isolation early.



Dropping Off and Collection

It is vital for the safety and well-being of everyone involved, parents and carers, children and staff, to minimise the interactions between individuals and reduce the footfall within the nursery as much as possible. Therefore, the following steps will be put in place:

- o In line with Government guidance only those parents who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period are permitted to drop off/collect their child from nursery.
- o There will be a designated drop off and collection area at each nursery. Please ensure that social distancing is maintained in these areas whilst you are waiting for a designated staff member to collect your child.
- o Parents will be requested to wear a face covering whilst awaiting to enter the Nursery to drop off/collect their child in the designated drop off/collection zones.
- o Only one parent or carer will be permitted to enter the entrance area of the nursery at one time.
- o Where possible, the child's key person or another staff member based within the child's playroom will collect children from their parent/carer at the entrance area of the Nursery upon arrival to minimise footfall in the nursery. You will not be permitted to enter your child's playroom during these times.
- o The staff member will wear a face covering during these times. The face covering should not be touched once put on, the face covering must be removed if it becomes moist or damaged and must be disposed of in a residual waste bin with a lid in line with government guidance. Staff member must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before and after touching a face covering, this includes when removing or placing them on.



Communication

In these unprecedented times we understand the need to make adaptations to how we communicate with parents. During COVID-19 the following procedures will be implemented:

- o Upon request you will receive digital daily communication regarding your child's day at nursery. We will arrange to email you, if required, your child's '**Daily Communication Sheet**'. If you would like a more detailed conversation, we will (where possible) arrange a telephone/video call at a time that is convenient to you.
- o Any documentation that you are required to complete will be emailed to you, this can then be completed and emailed back to the nursery.
- o Any parent face to face meetings that are required, will be conducted in a space where social distancing can be adhered to. Alternatively they will be held via telephone/video calling.



Social Distancing Between Rooms

Government guidance, along with our nursery teams and yourselves as parents, recognises that Early Year's children cannot be kept two metres apart. Therefore, the emphasis on returning to nursery has been placed on the below areas:

- o Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms.
- o Frequent hand washing and good respiratory hygiene practices.
- o Regular cleaning of the setting.
- o Minimising contact and mixing.

Groups of children

- o Child to staff ratios will be maintained wherever possible.
- o Your child will be allocated a key person within these small groups who will whenever possible, work with your child.
- o Wherever possible, children will remain with her/his designated key person when playing indoors and outdoors.
- o All indoor and outdoor activities will be planned to reflect children's individual needs and next steps of learning.

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Social Distancing Between Rooms

Care Routines

- o Where facilities permit, no more than two children to enter the bathroom at any given time. Children will be supervised at all times.
- o Mealtimes will take place in your child's allocated playroom and within your child's 'Group'. Depending on the numbers of groups of children in each room, we may allocate separate setting times for lunch and tea.
- o Drinking stations will be visible to children but out of reach. Children can request a drink but will also be offered drinks frequently throughout the day.
- o Children's sleep mats, coracles and cots will be placed two metres apart.
- o Windows in playrooms will be open for ventilation purposes.



Hygiene and Cleaning Practices

There are important actions that children, staff and parents can take during the Coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The following form part of our comprehensive infection control measures:

- o Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have Coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend nursery.
- o Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- o Cleaning frequently touched surfaces using appropriate cleaning products.
- o Minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).
- o Hands should be washed more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use hand sanitiser.



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Hygiene and Cleaning Practices

Children (with appropriate adult support and supervision) will be encouraged to frequently wash their hands, this includes:

- o Before leaving home
- o On arrival at the nursery
- o After using the toilet
- o Before food is prepared
- o Before food is eaten, including snacks and meals
- o Before and after activities
- o After being in the garden
- o After touching their face
- o After blowing their nose
- o After sneezing or coughing

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Hygiene and Cleaning Practices

Cleaning

- o A member of our staff within each nursery will be designated the role of 'housekeeper', to support with cleaning schedules across the nursery throughout the day.
- o Educational resources within playrooms will be rotated and cleaned frequently.
- o All soft toys, including soft baby rattles, will be removed until further notice.
- o All soft furnishings, such as cushion covers, will be changed on a frequent basis.
- o All children's bedding will be laundered every day in line with NHS laundry guidance.



Well-being and Education

This is a difficult time for everyone. However, children, particularly young ones, are led by routines and habits. So, the dramatic changes this virus has brought on their daily lives will be causing frustration and confusion. This means that it is important to make sure they are supported in any way necessary:

- o Children should be supported in age appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe, including regular hand washing and sneezing into a tissue:
 - www.kiddicaru.com/blog/correct-hand-washing-techniques-for-toddlers-and-how-to-get-them-to-want-to/
 - www.kiddicaru.com/school-readiness/i-can-blow-my-nose-using-a-tissue-and-wash-my-hands/
- o Children should be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of COVID-19. Staff need to ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time, so please let your child's key worker know of any changes in your child's behaviour or needs.
- o Lending Libraries and home lending bags are currently suspended to limit the movement of items between home and nursery. However, we have created a parent resource page on our website to provide you with home activities to support your child's education.
 - www.kiddicaru.com/parent-resources/



Visitors to the Nursery

- o Visitors will not be permitted to enter the nursery within normal operating hours unless essential e.g. urgent building maintenance. These visitors will adhere to the Nursery's COVID 19 Risk Assessment which is regularly updated and reviewed in line with Government Guidance.
- o Any non-essential visits will be made outside of the usual nursery operational hours where possible and will be conducted with one staff member who will maintain the two metre distance rule.
- o Extra-curricular activities provided by external professionals have been suspended.
- o Parents/carers are reminded that if they or a member of their household becomes symptomatic up to 48hours after the Nursery Visit they MUST advise the Nursery.



Staffing

Our staff teams are very much looking forward to seeing all the children and families again. To ensure that these interactions are safe and the risk of spreading the virus is minimal, the following additional steps have been taken:

- o All our staff have received appropriate induction back into the nursery and have completed the following in house online certificated training:
 - Infection Prevention and Control
 - Coronavirus Awareness course
- o Government guidance is that PPE is not required for Early Years beyond that which is usually worn such as gloves and aprons for toileting procedures and first aid. PPE is available for staff who are caring for a child that is displaying any symptoms and for those staff members that are supporting children who are presenting symptoms of COVID-19 prior to being collected by their parent/carer.
- o All staff are encouraged to avoid public transport and minimise social interactions, as per the Government guidance.
- o Staff members will be required to self-isolate for 10 days if they travel to a country not covered by the travel corridor exemption. This period of self-isolation will also apply if a journey involves a transit stop in a country not covered by the travel corridor exemption - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>
Under the Test to Release for International Travel scheme people returning to England who need to self-isolate will be able to take a COVID test with a private test provider to see if they can end their self-isolation early.



Contact Details:

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child returning to nursery, please contact our Head Office team.

Tel: 0800 028 4500

Email: customerservices@kiddicar.com

www.kiddicar.com

