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**Covid-19 Policy**

**Policy (what we will do)**

Our policy will be to reduce contact between people as much as possible, we can achieve this and reduce transmission by ensuring that children and ourselves only mix in small groups. Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if Early Years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if we also apply regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures as per government advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

We cannot socially distance young children, we have a duty of care to provide for their basic needs such as love, comfort, food, hygiene, etc. and we will continue to change nappies and love and cuddle the children in our care.

If a child tests positive whilst they have been in our care then we will have to close our setting while we arrange to be tested and wait for the results. This would mean no childcare for anyone although full fees will remain payable.

We will keep up to date with new regulations and guidance from the Government, Department for Education and Ofsted and communicate any necessary details to all families by email or text message.

**Procedure (how we will do it)**

We will continue to regulate thorough hand washing routines and monitor these where necessary. There will be a constant supply of soap, water and hand sanitiser for this purpose as well as paper towels for hand drying which the children will place directly into a dedicated bin after each use.

We will follow government guidelines to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We would ask that all of the families of children who attend our setting do the same. If at any time anyone in your household shows any symptoms of the Coronavirus you must keep your children at home until that person had a PCR test. If the test is negative the child may return to our setting, however if the test is positive then you will need to keep your child at home for at least 10 days or if you have negative lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7 and there is no fever.

We will continue to encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes into a tissue and put the tissue into the bin immediately followed by thorough hand washing. We will also continue to encourage children to turn their head away from others if they cough or sneeze. The bin will be emptied as soon as it is half full and at the end of each day.

We will implement a ‘drop at the door’ policy where parents/carers do not enter the playhouse. Only one parent/carer should drop or collect their child at our setting. Please press the intercom and enter when prompted, making use of the hand sanitiser stations on each side of the gate. If another parent is already dropping off then we may ask you to wait at a safe distance until they have left before letting you in.

Children’s individual bags should contain a change of clothes and any other items that you think we may need and be delivered to our setting at least 72 hours before your child is due to come back after 1st June 2020. We will isolate these bags and then have them in place when your child attends. If we use an item from the bag (such as a change of clothes) we will put dirty clothes in a tied plastic bag and send home with your child and ask for a new set of clothes to replace them. Please do not send any toys, books or games from home. Children will be allowed to bring a comforter if it is necessary, this will be used at the appropriate time (eg, naptime) and it will then be stored safely in your child’s bag.

Our setting will be well ventilated and kept clean at all times, particularly high traffic areas such as light switches, door handles, toys, tables and chairs etc.

Toys and resources will be kept to a minimum and cleaned at the end of each day and rotated with those kept in storage to prevent cross contamination.

 For the foreseeable future we will not be eating meals in the house but will instead be eating in the playhouse/garden. The children will still have to bring in their own lunch (Please ensure that you put a cool-block in during the warmer months), we will wipe their lunchboxes with an antibacterial wipe on arrival before storing them ready for lunch.

We will wash our hands regularly and do our best not to touch our faces. We will not wear face masks and do not expect the children to wear one as this could distress them further.

Our pushchairs will be cleaned by wiping them down and spraying with antibacterial spray at the end of each use or more often if required.

We will use the garden and resources outside as much as possible to get fresh air and exercise. We will also continue to take the children out for walks or to the beach whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Any child that displays symptoms of Coronavirus should be kept at home, if they present with symptoms whilst in our setting we will expect them to be collected as soon as is reasonably possible. Children should not be given medicine to counteract a raised temperature in the morning before they attend, if your child has a temperature or persistent cough before coming then we would expect them to be kept at home until such time that they can get a PCR test.