

TAYLORSTOWN CROSS COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL LTD.

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Procedures

- Supervision is vital for young children. If assistance is required staff should hold the child at a height at which the child's hands can hang freely under the running water. Assist the child in performing all the steps.
- Rubbing hands together under running water is the most important part of washing away infectious germs.
- Shared towel will be avoided as they assist in person-to-person spread of pathogens. Liquid soap and paper towels will be provided.
- Wipes will not be used as a substitute to soap and water.

Accidental soiling

Staff are not permitted to carry out sluicing of clothes, e.g. rinsing soiled clothes due to toileting/vomiting accident under the tap.

- When bagging soiled items staff will wear disposable gloves.
- Soiled material can be scraped off into the toilet.
- Place the soiled clothing into a double bag for parents to launder.
- Staff must wash their hands after handling soiled clothing even if wearing gloves.

Cleaning of toilets

Staff to ensure toilets are clean at the start and finish of each session. Additional cleaning will be carried out during the session if required.

- All toilets are to be cleaned down daily with hot soapy water. This also applies to the toilet seat and handles, sinks, taps and door handles. If the toilet seat is stained a cream cleanser will be used. Disposable cloths will be used.
- If an area becomes contaminated with infected material, i.e. diarrhoea or vomiting (not urine), the area will be washed with hot soapy water and detergent, then disinfected using bleach based disinfectant.
- Toilet paper will be provided for the children at all times. (Toilet roll holders to be provided in close proximity). Staff will report any shortage to the Leader immediately.
- Children will be educated on how to wash their hands properly and supervised at this activity on every occasion.
- The water will be checked regularly to ensure correct temperature for handwashing i.e. 43°C

Cleaning materials

Staff will adhere to mop systems and ensure cleaning procedures are followed.

- Cloths will be disposable and will be changed daily.
- Mops will be washed thoroughly with hot soapy water and left to dry.
- Mops used to clean bodily fluids should be:
 1. Cleaned with hot soapy water
 2. rinsed with disinfecting agent
 3. wrung as dry as possible
 4. hung out to dry completely.
- Buckets will be washed out and dried after use.
- Separate cleaning materials will be used for the kitchen and the toilet. Separate mops used are in place, one in kitchen and one in toilets.

Equipment, Toys and furnishing

Staff will ensure all are cleaned on a regular basis.

- Mats will be vacuumed daily.
- Tables and chairs will be cleaned and washed with hot water and detergent daily.
- Soft toys will be washed in the washing machine at as hot a cycle as possible (minimum 60°C) and tumble dried.
- Hard toys will be washed with hot water and detergent and dried on a termly basis. Additional cleaning will be carried out when required.
- Water play toys will be stored dry and water tray will be emptied, rinsed and dried out daily by turning upside down so that no condensation can collect.
- Play dough will be changed weekly and children will be discouraged from putting dough in their mouths.
- In case of an outbreak of infection, all water play and the use of play dough will cease.
- Sand will be sieved on a weekly basis.

Sick Children

Parents are required to sign an infection control agreement with the complex. This is vital to minimise the spread of infection within the setting. Parents will be provided with exclusion times for common infections.

- Children who are unwell with an infectious disease should not be at the complex. The leader will ensure that there is an exclusion contract signed for all children. Once they are better they can return unless they pose a risk of infection to others.

- If a child falls ill whilst at the complex, the sick child will be excluded from the others without delay to the office.
- A member of staff will stay with the child while arrangements are being made for the child to be sent home.

All staff are required to follow the procedures in order to minimise the spread of infection.

- Staff infection: all staff will cover all cuts, breaks in their skin, scratches or moist skin conditions with a waterproof dressing (without visible air holes) when they are at work.
- Dressings and plasters will be replaced as often as necessary, and these will be blue if staff are involved in preparing food.
- All staff immunisations will be checked and staff will report symptoms of sickness to the leader.
- Staff will observe exclusion periods of infectious diseases and advice will be sought from the health visitor if in doubt.
- Some infections if caught by a pregnant woman can pose a danger to her unborn child:
 1. Chicken Pox
 2. Rubella
 3. Parvovirus
- if a female member of staff comes in contact with the above she will contact the leader and GP immediately.

Please see below table for guidance on exclusion periods.

Disease	Exclusion Period
Chickenpox	For five days after rash
Conjunctivitis	When treatment has commenced
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Until free of symptoms for at least 48 hours
Hand, foot and mouth disease	None – children should remain away while rash is on hands
Hepatitis A	For seven days after the onset of Jaundice
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or heeled (treated with antibiotics)
Measles	For five days after rash appears
Mumps	For five days after onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	None – scalp ringworm needs treatment with an oral anti-fungal
Rubella (German measles)	For five days after onset of the rash
Scabies	Until treated
Scarlet fever	For five days after commencing antibiotics
Threadworms	Should be treated prior to return
Tuberculosis	CCSC will advise on necessary action
Whooping cough	For five days after commencing antibiotics

This policy has been adopted by the preschool committee at a meeting on

Witnessed by _____ (Chairperson)

This Policy was reviewed on _____

Witnessed by _____ (Chairperson)

Complex Co-ordinator _____ Date _____