



## Safe play and interaction Policy – During COVID-19

Reviewed Date: May 2020

Review date: ongoing

### Aim

During these unprecedented times, Rainbow Day Nurseries will aim to create an environment that promotes safe play and interactions. Our intention is to prevent the risk of COVID 19 virus entering and spreading within the nurseries. We will take measures to do both and while there are many factors to consider, we have identified key priorities to mitigate the risks.

“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures”

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- **minimising contact and mixing**

Reference:<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Rainbow day nursery will aim to ensure that there are procedures for safe play and interaction during the children’s day at nursery. This prevent the risk of COVID-19 virus entering the provision and avoid and spreading of the virus. There are many considerations There are several immediate issues that the nursery has considered. The following list of issues are the ones we have identified as the top priorities to help reduce risks

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**The area we aim to address in this policy is that of minimising contact and mixing. The above points have been addressed within amended policies**

We have a duty of care and a responsibility to safeguard all children, staff, parents, and carers to abide by government updates throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. How we will achieve this is through a series of measures outlined.

### **Nursery Environment & Resources**

We want our children to play safely and interact with others while being encouraged to follow minimise contact and mixing. To do this our environment will be organised to allow for small groups to access the full range of resources safely throughout the day. Designated areas will be assigned to a group of children and rotated during the day. Cleaning of resources and the area, between groups will be carried out as per our amended cleaning policy.

- Play equipment will be chosen carefully in each room so that we only have toys, arts & craft materials, that can be appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and multiple groups do not use it simultaneously.
- We will leave doors open to our outdoor area when safe to do so to outdoor area and **new bullet doors to the** bathrooms will be opened to prevent or limit handling touching them.
- Hand washing will also take place on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. As well as between changing areas. Age appropriate help will be given.
- We will encourage the children to learn and practise these habits through modelling, instruction, games and songs.
- The rooms will be well ventilated by opening windows and doors to the outdoors if safe to do so. This has been said in previous bullet
- Hand sanitiser will be available in all rooms for staff to use
- Access to the bathrooms will be limited-by numbers, to allow for social distancing.
- We will restrict items that the children bring to and take home from nursery take to and from nursery to reduce risk of spread.

## **Bubble groups**

Mangers and keyworkers will keep cohorts of children together. Where possible the children will be divided into small, fixed groups of between three to six children. Dependent on days attended and age group.

Mangers and keyworkers will aim to

- ensure that children are always in the same small groups each day, and different groups are not mixed or on subsequent days
- ensure that the same staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.
- ensure that wherever possible children use the area of a setting for defined periods and that the areas are cleaned thoroughly after these times.
- One staff member supervises the same group every day for we will aim for this to be the keyworker or member of staff the children are familiar with.

## **Garden time**

Outdoor play is essential for all children within the nursery, a rich natural outdoor environment offers a wealth of learning opportunities. We will implement safety measures to ensure that the children are able to gain the same opportunity to practise and consolidate their learning within the outdoor environment. Bubble groups will alternate between the indoor and garden areas throughout the day.

Water play will still be accessible for the children to use and will be changed regularly between bubble groups.

Children will always have access to the garden, with distance and regulations in place, for example divided areas. Staff will adhere to all cleaning and health and safety procedures and polices during and in-between sessions of each bubble group.

## **Mealtimes**

Before and after mealtimes all children will be supported in the bathroom to thoroughly wash and dry their hands.

During mealtimes

- Staff will ensure that the children will sit in small groups with a maximum of four children at each table with social distancing guidelines applied.
- All Staff will wear PPE throughout meal and snack times to serve the children.

- Staff will inform children of what is on the menu at mealtimes, they will then ask each child individually which food they would like served on their plate abiding by all dietary requirements.
- Staff will support children throughout the duration of mealtimes. Ensuring no cross contamination between any equipment.
- Snack time will be a rolling snack with each bubble group, staff will serve the snack for all children offering them choices of fresh fruit and snacks prepared by site cook.

### **Bathroom time**

Toilet routine for those children who are toilet trained:

- Children will be assisted to the toilet by a member of staff and numbers will be restricted in the bathroom area.
- Staff will ensure that they have washed and dried their hands.
- Staff will then wipe down toilet, toilet handles sinks and taps after each use.
- Staff will continue to follow the revised cleaning policy using \*Ultra AX (Viricidal activity against all enveloped viruses (including Coronavirus, Influenza virus) in all high traffic areas.

### **Nappy Changing Times**

Staff will maintain social distancing rules in the bathroom area towards other members of staff.

Nappy changing times will remain with our current policy, assigned keyworker/ bubble worker will change their assigned children's nappies. Ensuring Nappy mat and surrounding areas are cleaned thoroughly before used again.

### **Isolation area**

To ensure safety of all children, parents/carers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic each nursery will have an isolation area for any child displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19. The areas will be situated in a secure area of the garden and in an empty room or staff room."

If a child shows symptoms of COVID -19 parents / carers will be called immediately and asked to collect their child. Temperatures will be monitored, and procedures will be followed alongside our COVID 19 policy. A member of staff wearing full PPE clothing will always remain with the child. The staff member and child will then adhere to the government guidelines of correct isolation period before returning to the nursery. The secured areas will be thoroughly cleaned and sterilised immediately. Cleanliness and safety of the area is paramount, and we will implement the guidance below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

This Policy cross references to:

Sick children's policy

Cleaning policy

Intimate care policy