



CORONAVIRUS: WHAT WE ARE DOING TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Here at Kiddy Planet our nursery staff will follow strict measures to keep your child safe as lockdown is eased and we open our doors from 1 June and welcome children back from 9.00am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The reopening of nurseries is part of the next phase of easing the lockdown and the decision enables all eligible children to go back to their early years setting, a change from only allowing vulnerable children and children of key workers.

Nobody is legally obliged to send their child to school or nursery at this stage. However, the government is encouraging children in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to go back as they recognise how important it is for children's mental and physical wellbeing to interact with their peers.

Children returning to their early years setting will also enable more families to return to work.

To ensure children are as safe as possible when they return to their childcare setting, a range of measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus.

How will nurseries protect my child as the lockdown lifts?

Asking children to socially distance will be difficult to maintain but staff will as far as they are able implement social distancing measures.

We will be using dinosaur markers to encourage children to stay further apart from each other and will focus on child led learning.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 to children and staff, we will also be taking the following precautions in line with Government guidelines:

- Staggered pick up and drop off times so that there aren't crowds at the nursery gates.
- As far as possible have only one parent attend drop offs.
- Staggered lunchtimes. Many nurseries have this in place anyway for different age groups.
- Smaller groups of children. These groups won't mix with other groups or have outdoor play at the same time.
- Use outside spaces for learning as much as possible to allow for easier social distancing.
- Ensure as far as possible that the same children are in the same groups each day and that the teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to the same group each day as well.
- Ensure completely separate play spaces between groups. This may mean dividing outdoor play areas to avoid one group of children playing where another group has been.
- Play equipment and other shared resources should not be used by multiple groups of children simultaneously and should be cleaned between use.
- Remove unnecessary items and items that are difficult to clean from learning environments i.e. playdough, sand and water

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Cleaning and hygiene

- Rigorous cleaning of the setting each day.
- Cleaning of surfaces and items that the children are touching more frequently than normal, such as toys, books, sinks and toilets.
- Having hand sanitisers readily available throughout the learning environment.
- Staff ensuring that hand-washing routines are always kept, including when children arrive, before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing.
- Children's temperature monitored when they arrive and leave the setting.
- Using bins for tissue waste – 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'.
- Keeping the setting well ventilated.
- Limiting the number of children using toilet facilities at the same time.

How we are minimising the risk of people catching coronavirus?

Many parents have questions about how nurseries will minimise the risk to children, families, staff and the wider community, during the coronavirus pandemic:

We are focused on infection control and minimising the impact and reducing the possibility of exposure for children, families and staff. We have policies in place to protect against the spread of any serious disease, including infection control.

We follow guidance given by government as per any other notifiable virus, (such as measles, mumps and scarlet fever), and nursery staff will spend more time on cleaning and hygiene during this period.

Are children eligible for Covid-19 testing?

All children eligible to attend childcare settings and members of their households can access testing if they display coronavirus symptoms.

This allows children to return to the nursery and family members to go back to work if the test is negative.

Visit the government website to [access testing](#).

What about childcare ratios?

The UK government has allowed nurseries to adjust staff to child ratios, if necessary, to continue providing care and education, if a staff member is self-isolating.

With staff potentially being off sick due to COVID-19 pandemic, the DfE guidance states: 'We consider the extent of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to be an exceptional temporary circumstance in which the staff-to-child ratios set out in the EYFS can be changed if necessary'.



Any changes Kiddy Planet make to ratios are fully risk assessed and will prioritise the quality of care, safety and security of the children. We will be updating and introducing additional measures in line with the latest guidance from the NHS, public health bodies and the government as changes are announced.

How are nurseries enforcing handwashing guidance?

Practising good hygiene has been identified as an important activity to avoid catching and spreading coronavirus.

- All non-essential visits to the nursery by parents or other adults will not be allowed.
- All staff and children will wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and hot water or will use hand sanitiser gel on site.
- After handwashing, disposable paper towels are used to dry hands and binned afterwards.
- Staff and children will continue to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, in line with current policy.
- Nurseries will ensure children wash their hands regularly to keep everyone safe including: before and after messy play; after going to the toilet; after playing in the garden; after blowing their nose and before and after eating.

What other steps are nurseries taking to keep children safe?

Nurseries are taking a number of other important measures to reduce the risks of cross-infection.

- Hand sanitiser, where provided, is used by parents on entry and exit to nurseries for emergencies only.
- Kiddy Planet are allowing only emergency visits to the nursery and are restricting collections to one adult per family. We will take all possible measures to ensure parents minimise the time they spend at the childcare setting.
- On arrival at the nursery, staff will ask parents to confirm their child has not been showing any symptoms (i.e. a new continuous cough and or high temperature of 37.8°C or more) and the children's temperatures will be monitored on arriving and leaving the nursery.
- All children are monitored by staff in line with infection control policies throughout the session.
- We are using educational resources like posters, handwashing songs and videos aimed at helping children take extra care when washing their hands.
- To minimise the chance of infection, healthy meals and snacks will be provided for children and also to staff so that nursery workers can remain inside the childcare setting during their shifts.
- Staff are cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual.
- Every room is cleaned thoroughly every day.

- Activities that may pose a higher risk such as sand and water play, cooking activities, playdough etc. have been temporarily suspended.
- Personal waste (for example, nappies, used tissues, and other items soiled with bodily fluids) and disposable cleaning cloths will be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.
- Kiddy Planet are asking for parents' queries to be communicated via phone or email instead of in person.
- Any incident, accident or important information regarding a child's welfare will be communicated to parents by email or phone.

What if I am a parent and suspect I or my child has COVID-19?

The COVID-19 symptoms are:

- A high temperature of 37.8°C or above; or
- A new, continuous cough (i.e. you have started coughing repeatedly); or
- A loss of or changed sense of smell or taste, known as anosmia.

If you have one of the symptoms shown above and your child attends a nursery:

- Please inform a member of the nursery's management team.
- Young children share a household with a parent/guardian, and therefore, in accordance with government, you and your child must stay at home for 14 days. Everyone in that household must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- Do not enter the nursery during this period.
- Do not bring your child to nursery.
- To protect others, do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- Staying at home and self-isolating is important in stopping the virus from spreading and protecting other nursery children, families and staff members.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If the symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, telephone NHS 111.

What if a child or nursery worker develops COVID-19 symptoms at nursery?

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms at nursery, they will be:

- Sent home to self-isolate for at least seven days if they live alone. (They must self-isolate at home for 14 days if they live with others).

If a child is displaying coronavirus symptoms, they will be:

- Sent home for at least 14 days (because they live with a parent/guardian in a household).

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- While a child is awaiting collection by their parent, the child will be moved away from other children and, if appropriate, into a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation.
 - Younger children will not be left alone without adult supervision. Staff are advised to wear PPE while they await collection if a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained.
 - If it is not possible to isolate a child, they will be moved to an area which is at least two metres away from other children and staff.
 - After the child has been collected by their parent, nursery staff will clean the room.
 - Personal waste (for example, nappies and other items soiled with bodily fluids) will be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags will be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This will then be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual household waste bin for disposal.
 - Once the child has left, the whole nursery will be thoroughly cleaned that day.

Useful links to guidance

For the latest guidance about COVID-19, including self-isolating, please click on the links below to go to the UK government webpages.

[NHS](#)

[UK Government](#)

[To Access Testing.](#)