



Registered Charity No: 1023363

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE Thursday 12th March 2020

The guidance regarding self-isolation has been updated today, and new guidance asks anyone with a temperature or cough, no matter how mild, to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms to help slow down the spread of the virus. Whilst it may be unlikely that you are suffering from Covid19, we all need to do our part to keep each other safe.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

As you can imagine, we are receiving regular guidance and updates from Surrey Children's Services as well as The Early Year's Alliance, plus we're monitoring the various Government sites to ensure we are following current guidance. We will continue to follow their guidance and keep you updated if things change further.

Department for Education

The government and NHS have updated the advice on #COVID19.

If you have: a new continuous cough OR high temperature (37.8 degrees or higher) you should stay at home for 7 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For us at Playschool, this guidance is important for parents, children and staff to follow to help minimise the risk of cross-infection at playschool. Please do follow this advice and be aware that there may come a time where staff have to self-isolate and we may therefore not be able to open if we are not able to meet legal ratio's.

What additional measures are we putting in place to help minimise the risk of cross-infection at Playschool?

- The adult at snack bar will wear gloves and a disposable apron, and no children will help prepare the fruit.
- Removal of the portable handwashing station to ensure children are using warm water and soap.
- Removal of flannels/handtowels and introduction of paper towels.
- Removal of the sensory tray.
- Removal of playdough, clay and plasticine.
- Removal of the mud kitchen and water play in the garden.
- Removal of paint and paint brushes.
- Individual water bottles will be stored in the children's pouches rather than in a shared tray.
- Additional cleaning of door handles and light switches by staff as part of our setting up process.
- Supervision and adult modelling good hand washing (we do this already but will increase the adult presence).

These adjustments will be temporary measures during the Coronavirus pandemic, and the aim is to reduce the high-risk items. As you can appreciate, it is impossible for us to guarantee all the toys are always germ free but by removing the wet items that can easily spread germs from one hand to another, we're hoping it will help minimise risk.

What can you do to help us minimise the risks?

- Follow the guidance regarding self-isolation for yourself and your child.
- Ensure your child has a fresh water bottle each session.
- Wash your hands and your child's hands on arrival – using the adult bathrooms in the foyer – we will ensure there are paper towels for drying hands.
- Please be patient if we are late opening the door for the start of the session as we have additional layers to our risk assessment – cleaning the door handles etc. We want to ensure we have thoroughly cleaned the environment before we open the door. This shouldn't be an issue, but if we are running on minimal staff due to isolation, this could happen.
- Sign up as a parent helper so we have an additional adult to support handwashing and also to help us clean some of the toys. **Ideally we would like an adult each session to support us with this.**

Instead of calling 111 for advice, the NHS are encouraging us to use this web service instead, which asks a couple of simple questions and then gives guidance on how to self-isolate and when it is safe for you to resume normal day to day life, and also at what point you should be contacting 111 if symptoms are becoming severe. Thankfully children seem to be coping well with the virus so far, but we can't be complacent. <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

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