



Policy for Infection Control

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Version: 1

Board Approval: August 2019

Date for Review: August 2021

Responsibility of: Childcare Development Manager

Reviewed and amended as per HSE COVID guidance during 2020,2021 and 2022

Reviewed: September 2022

Reviewed: January 2024

Reviewed and ammended: September 2025

Policy Statement

Finglas Childcare Ltd aim to ensure the safety and welfare of pre-school children while attending the service. Finglas Childcare Ltd is committed to the promotion of a healthy environment and a high standard of personal hygiene for adults and children including a high standard of hygiene in relation to nappy changing/toileting. It is the policy of our company to promote the take-up and completion of immunisation programmes.

Rationale

This policy is in adherence to the Childcare Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, Childrens First Act 2015, the Health and Safety at Work Acts 2005 and 2010 and COVID19 Infection Prevention and Control guidance for settings providing childcare during the COVID19 pandemic.

This policy considers the needs of children, parents/families, staff and management.

Scope of Policy

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This Infection Control policy applies to all parents/guardians, FCL & non FCL staff, volunteers, students and Board of Management members who partake in any activities with children from our Early Years settings.

Policy & Procedure

Staff

1. Staff must always model and explain the reasons for hygiene practices:

Staff must be aware at all times that in their personal and professional hygiene practices and routines they are setting an example (modelling) for the children by;

- washing hands after using toilets
- washing hands before and after handling food - ideally disposable gloves

suitable for food preparation must be used

2. Staff must cover all cuts and sores with suitable dressings

3. When dealing with spills:

- good quality disposable gloves must always be used when cleaning up spills of body fluids (vomit, blood, urine and excrement)
- any spills of body fluids or excrement must be wiped up with paper towels and hygienically disposed of in double plastic bags
- the area of the accident must be treated with a chlorine or iodine bleach based solution, diluted according to the manufacturers' instructions using paper towels
- a supply of paper towels must be readily available for accidents
- a supply of polythene bags must be available to wrap soiled garments

General Cleaning

1. Mop heads for general floor washing must be washed in the washing machine, dried and replaced daily or more frequently if required

2. All toilets, surrounding walls and wash hand basins must be cleaned and

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disinfected every day. Finglas Childcare Ltd have a daily and weekly cleaning routine in respect of floors, tables, playroom and toys and frequently mouthed objects.

4. Dressing up clothes/imaginative play materials must be washed regularly
5. Sand must be changed regularly and covered when not in use and the water tray must be emptied daily and as appropriate between sessions
6. Washing up must be done by dish washer or thoroughly in hot water with detergent, using rubber gloves when appropriate.
7. Cups/beakers must be washed in the dish washer.
8. Damaged delph must not be used
9. All cleaning cloths must be changed every day and between sessions, if there is more than one session. Different cleaning cloths must be used for kitchen and bathroom.
10. Any leftover food must be properly disposed of immediately.
11. Routine cleaning which may pose a safety risk must not take place when children are on the premises

Infectious Disease Control

1. Staff will assist children in learning personal care skills such as proper hand washing, sneezing into crook of arm and blowing noses into hankies etc as age appropriate.
 - 1(a). If children's faces or hands need to be washed before or after eating, staff will use an individual clean wash cloth that has been rinsed in warm soapy water for each child. This washcloth will be put directly into the laundry basket for boil washing. A communal basin will not be used.
2. Children and adults with heavy colds or coughs must not attend the childcare service. Exclusion periods are outlined in our childcare policy
3. Any children of childcare staff who are ill must not accompany their parent/guardian/carers to work in the service
4. Children with infectious diseases (viral or bacterial) must not attend the childcare service. Information on exclusion periods is available in the childcare policy.
5. A dated notice informing all parent/guardian/carers of an infectious disease outbreak/incidence must be displayed in a prominent place and parent/guardian/carers must also be verbally informed
6. Head louse infestation is a contagious condition, and when noticed in the childcare service must be brought to the attention of all parent /guardian/carers on the day.

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Recommended Hygiene Practices

- Anti-bacterial soap and disposable paper towels are used for washing and drying hands
- Hygienic hand rub is available for staff, parents and all adult visitors
- Cleaning schedule is in place to ensure that adults and children's toilets are kept in a clean and hygienic condition at all times
- Disposable gloves and aprons are provided and must be worn during nappy changing and handling other soiled garments
- Adequate and suitable facilities for the safe and hygienic storage and disposal of soiled nappies is available
- Adequate supplies of clean bedding and spare clothes are available
- Soiled items must be stored in a suitable designated area which is not accessible to children
- Staff must treat accidents sensitively

Finglas Childcare Ltd have a nappy changing policy and a toileting policy which are available on request.

Animals:

Staff must ensure that

1. Animals visiting the childcare service are free from disease, do not pose a health risk and are safe for children to be with.
2. The childcare service pets are disease free, do not pose a health risk, are safe for children to be with.

Pest Control:

1. All door and window openings to the food storage and preparation rooms must be effectively screened to prevent the ingress of birds, vermin and insects.
2. Adequate proofing must be made to the structure to prevent infestations of vermin and insects.
3. A pest control company is tasked with quarterly visits.



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Training/Links with other agencies:

FCL have established links with local Public Health Clinics and has a food safety management system based on the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). Fionn Ghlas EYH and the Willow Tree Creche are registered with the HSE as Food Businesses. All kitchen staff are HACCP trained.

Finglas Childcare Communication Plan

All EYP, catering and cleaning staff are to be informed of the policy and procedures regarding infection control. Supervisors or managers will check with room staff that they have read and understood the policy and provide any assistance needed.

A summary of this policy will be included in the Parents/Guardians Handbook. This policy will also be included in staff team meetings training. A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to EYPs and parents/guardians in the Policy Folder located at reception in the office. Parents/Guardians may receive a copy of the policy at any time upon request. Parents/Guardians and EYPs will receive notification of any updates

I acknowledge that I had read and understand the Policy Document.

Date: _____