

Parkside Playgroup

Covid-19 Policy Statement

It is important that everyone complies with the latest Government guidance on Coronavirus.

CHILDREN

ATTENDANCE

- Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting.
- Any child with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste must not attend for 10 days or until they test negative for COVID-19 using a PCR test.
- Staff reserve the right to take children's temperature on arrival at playgroup and will not admit any child with a high temperature. We will usually take a temperature if a child or accompanying parent/carer appears unwell.

WELLBEING & EDUCATION

- Children will be supported in age-appropriate ways to understand the steps they need to take to keep themselves safe including regular handwashing and sneezing into a tissue and throwing it away.
- Children will be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may encounter as a result of COVID-19 and staff will be aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at the moment.

STAFF

ATTENDANCE

- Only staff who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting.
- Any staff member with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste must not attend for 10 days or until they test negative for COVID-19 using a PCR test.
- For any staff member living in a household where another person has a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste, the staff member must not attend playgroup for at least 10 days or until they test negative for COVID-19 using a PCR test. This requirement to self-isolate does not apply if the staff member has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and does not have any symptoms.
- Any staff member contacted by Track & Trace and instructed to self-isolate is expected to self-isolate in accordance with the law and Public Health guidelines.
- Staff will be risk assessed if returning to work after a period of isolation or having had COVID-19.
- Staff in the playgroup will be limited to the number which is needed for the number of children expected.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING & FACE COVERINGS

- Staff may wear face coverings if they wish.
- Staff are no longer required to wear face coverings.
- Staff members will avoid all close contact with each other. Staff will follow social distancing guidelines and remain 2 metres apart from each other or from parents/visitors where possible.

TRAINING

- All staff members will receive appropriate instruction and training in infection control and the relevant operating procedure and risk assessments.

RESPONSIBILITY

- All staff members are responsible for ensuring that children, parents/carers and staff members follow this policy in full.

PARENTS & CARERS

PHYSICAL DISTANCING & DROP OFF/COLLECTION

- Only parents/carers who are symptom free and/or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off and collect their child.
- Parents/carers must stay 2 metres away from staff.
- Parents/carers have been requested to stay 2 metres apart when waiting to drop off or pick up children.
- Parents will not be able to enter the playgroup except for limited reasons, such as settling a child who may become distressed, or during the settling in sessions of a new child. Parents must not come into close contact with other children or staff.

COMMUNICATION

- Parents will receive clear communications regarding the role they play in the safe operating procedure and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.

VISITORS

- Visitors must wash their hands when entering the playgroup
- All surfaces touched or objects handle by visitors must be sprayed with disinfectant and wiped down upon their departure.
- All visitors to remain strictly 2 metres away from staff.
- All visitors must wear a face covering while in areas of the playgroup with children in them, or where they cannot stay 2m away from staff. This includes any person taking a tour of the playgroup while it is open.
- Parents, staff, children or visitors must not enter the playgroup if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Visits will be kept to a minimum quantity and length of time, and will take place, as much as possible, when there are minimal numbers of children in the playgroup. This includes prospective family visits, and any settle sessions with parents/carers.

TRAVEL

- Wherever possible staff and parents should travel to the playgroup alone, using their own transport
- If public transport is necessary, current government guidance on the safe use of public transport must be followed.
- Parents may not leave travel accessories such as car seats, buggies, scooters on the playgroup premises
- Children will not be allowed to approach other groups whilst on outings. This will include not using equipment at the playground that is being used at that time by non-playgroup children.

HYGIENE, HEALTH & SAFETY

HAND WASHING & PERSONAL HYGIENE

- All children and staff must wash their hands on arrival at the playgroup and before they leave to go home.
Children will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently during the day, such as after wiping their nose, before and after eating, when coming in from the garden, before touching their faces.
- Staff will wash their hands more frequently, such as before preparing and serving food, after wiping children's noses, after cuddling children, after supporting toileting or nappy changing, after handling items brought in from outside the playgroup, before eating, before touching their faces, and before leaving the playgroup.

CLEANING

- All frequently used surfaces (tables, counter tops, toilets, sinks) will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily.
- Floors will be steam cleaned or disinfected daily, door handles and light switches must be disinfected at least daily.
- Telephones and tablets must be disinfected at least daily.
- Procedures for cleaning resources are explained in the sections below.

WASTE

- Any bins that children have access to will be emptied three times daily.
- All waste will continue to be disposed of in a safe and hygienic way.

PPE

- Current Government guidance is that PPE [should not be required](#) in general practice in nurseries to protect against COVID-19 transmission. PPE, such as aprons and gloves, will continue to be worn as usual for nappy changing and the administration of first aid.
- PPE can be worn when supervising a child with symptoms of COVID if it is not possible for the staff member to remain distanced from that child.

PREMISES & RESOURCES

BUILDING

- Back door to garden will be kept open when possible to ensure good ventilation.

RESOURCES

- Children are not permitted to bring items from home into the setting, including toys, unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing. When this is the case items must be cleaned on arrival.
- Any toys or other resources accessed by children will be cleaned and disinfected prior to being put away by the end of the day.
- To manage cleaning of resources, some difficult to clean items may be removed from the rooms. Free access to some resources may be limited, so that staff can control when children use resources and they need to be cleaned.
- Equipment used by staff, such as tablets and stationery will be allocated to individual staff members where possible and cleaned at least daily.

SUPPLIES

- The setting will ensure an adequate supply of essential stock, such as gloves, aprons and disinfectant materials as the playgroup will not be able to operate without essential supplies to ensure infection control.

RESPONDING TO A SUSPECTED CASE

- If anyone becomes ill with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste in the playgroup they must be sent home and advised to follow the “Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection”.
- If a child is waiting to go home, they should be isolated in a closed off area of the setting with appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, the child should be moved at least 2 meters away from others.
- Staff will call 999 if they become seriously ill or their life is at risk.
- The staff member responsible for the child during this time should if possible be someone who was already working with that child.
- The staff member caring for the child will wear appropriate PPE if it is not possible to remain distanced from that child.
- If the child needs to use the bathroom whilst waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom. This should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else.
- The member of staff who has cared for the child who was taken unwell does not need to go home unless they develop symptoms. The staff member should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds.
- The area where the child was isolated should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by the same staff member.

Further guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test

This notice was adopted at a meeting of

Parkside Playgroup

Held on

Sept 2021

Date to be reviewed

As directed by government

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Brenda Henrick

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Chairperson