



Clann Aire

Infection Control Policy

Policy statement:

Clondrohid Community Crèche, Pre-School and After School aim to protect all children attending our service and all staff in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children and staff of our service is paramount and manage any infections which may be present in our service.

Principle:

This policy is underpinned by the Child Care Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Tusla (2018) Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Prevention & Infection control measures:

- All childcare practitioners promote, encourage and model hand washing for children, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, waste disposal and mopping up spills.
- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they have an infectious illness in line with our **Illness and Exclusion Policy**.
- Practitioners will also adhere to our illness and exclusion policy.
- When a child/ staff member is diagnosed with an infectious disease, the HSE guidelines for exclusion will be followed.
- Daily cleaning schedules are in place and records kept.
- We have a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at our centre.
- Our centre carries and maintains a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that good hygiene practices can be always carried out.

Hygiene Procedure:

All childcare practitioners are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.

- Toilets, floors, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned numerous times throughout the day to help decrease the spread of infection.
- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is also available in all bathrooms, nappy changing areas and kitchens.
- Hand Sanitisers are placed outside every room and to be used on entry of the room.
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after cleaning their nose, coughing or sneezing and after they go outside.
- Nappy changing area is wiped down after every use and there is a nappy changing procedure in place.
- Wet and soiled nappies are disposed by in our nappy bins. They are emptied daily.
- Potties are emptied and cleaned after each use if children bring in their potties from home and are left in the crèche.
- Childcare practitioners always wear gloves and aprons when changing nappies, cleaning, preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Toys or other play materials are not allowed in the toilet area
- Childcare practitioners must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, before feeding children, before eating or drinking, after going to the toilet, assisting children going to the toilet, nappy changing, dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning procedures, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves and after cleaning or wiping down any area/toys.
- All cots and beds are cleaned with disinfectant after each use daily.

- All linen is washed once per week and more frequently if necessary. Children do not share bed clothes, and all sheets and blankets are labelled and stored separately.
- Soothers that are left in the centre are sterilised with boiling water.
- Growbags and any comforters will be kept in the crèche and sent home at the end of the week to be washed.

Cleaning blood and body fluid spillages

When childcare practitioners need to clean up blood or body fluid.

- The children need to be kept away from the spillage
- Get gloves, apron, paper roll, disinfectant spray and a bin liner.
- Put on gloves
- Use the white roll to clean up the fluid and put in the bin liner
- Spray the area with the disinfectant spray and dry with the paper roll.
- Dry the area with paper roll
- Put all used paper roll and used gloves into the bin liner.
- Tie a knot on the top of the bag and dispose of in the main disposal bin outside.
- Wash hands.

Respiratory hygiene

- Childcare practitioners should cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing to prevent the spread of germs and wash their hands afterwards
- Childcare practitioners should encourage children to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing and to wash their hands afterwards
- There should be tissues available at all times to clean noses and a bin available to dispose of the used tissue
- Tissues should only be used once and then thrown away. The same tissue should never be used on different children
- The children have access to the outdoor area every day for at least a half hour
- The children's cots and beds are spaced at least 50cm apart within the same pod. Children who will be using the same sleep facility but from a different pod will be adhering to the social distance guidelines of being 60.96 cm/ 2ft apart.

Safe management of perishable foods

All perishable foods are kept in the fridges in the kitchen area. The temperature of the fridge's are checked every morning and are recorded. The temperature must be in between 0-5 degrees Celsius. Perishable foods are not left at room temperature for more than 2 hours, if they are at room temperature for more than 2 hours they will have to be thrown away.

Children's bottles are stored in the Caterpillar room fridge in their milk kitchen. The temperature of the fridge is checked to ensure it's between 0-5 degrees Celsius daily. Once the bottle is taken out of the fridge it must be used within the 2 hours.

Procedure for Managing an infectious illness

- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- If a child becomes unwell while attending any one of our services, we take their temperature if it's raised, we would endeavour to bring it down by loosening the child's clothes sponging them down & the parent is contacted to inform them of the situation. If a staff member needs to administer temperature control medication, we follow our **Medication Policy and Procedure**.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.
- On contraction of the COVID 19 virus we will follow the most up to date guidelines from the HSE.
- If there has been a confirmed case of an infectious illness in our setting, we carry out a complete disinfectant cleaning of the room involved, and we notify parents and staff.
- A list of notifiable diseases is available from the HSE. In the case of notified diseases or if the illness spreads the manager will notify the local Tusla office and the HSE Public Health Department. The new Regulations detail infectious disease outbreaks as a notifiable event.

- When we have been contacted by the Department of Public Health Medicine, HSE, and we have been advised that we have a confirmed case as listed we must contact Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate. The Department of Public Health Medicine will advise us of the next steps regarding precautions to be taken in our premises and follow up of contacts and procedures.
- Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred.
- On our registration forms there is a section on immunisation record. Every parent needs to fill this section out for each child indicating what immunisations the child has received if any. If the parent has decided not to vaccinate their child, it needs to be written in this section of the registration form. We need to make it clear that the child is at risk of infectious disease when they are not vaccinated. The childcare practitioners in the room with a child that is not vaccinated needs to be aware of this. If there is a confirmed case of an infectious disease that the child is not vaccinated against, the childcare practitioner needs to ring that parent and make them aware of it. The child will need to stay out of the centre until we know get notification that it is safe for the child to return.

This policy was adopted by Clondrohid Community Crèche Pre-School & after School Services.

Signed by: Harriet Murray on behalf of Management (Manager, Owner, Chairperson)

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