

HYGIENE POLICY

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd is committed to promoting a healthy environment and a high standard of personal hygiene for adults and children. It is our policy to comply with current regulations and best practice recommendations.

Principle

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Tusla (2018) Quality and Regulatory Framework and informed by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).

This policy has been updated in line with current guidance the HSPC Infection Prevention and Control guidance for services providing childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the DCYA's Return to Work Safely Protocol and Tusla's Children Services Regulations Guidance Document for Early Years Services: COVID-19

This policy forms part of our Infection control policy.

Communication Plan

All parents/guardians are informed of the policy and procedures. Staff members will check with parents that they have read and understood the policy and provide any assistance needed.

A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook. This policy will also be reviewed with staff members at induction and annual staff training.

A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff members and parents in the Policy Folder located in the setting.

Parents/guardians may receive a copy of the full policy and procedures at any time upon request. Parents/guardians and all relevant staff members will receive written notification of any updates to this policy.

Hygiene Procedures

Handwashing

- All staff are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene and promote and model correct handwashing techniques throughout the day.
- Posters of correct hand washing procedures are available at wash hand basins for adults and children. (See Appendix A.)
- Warm running water is available for hand washing at a temperature no greater than 43°C at children's wash hand basins.
- Liquid anti-bacterial soap is used when hand washing.
- Disposable paper towels are used for drying hands. Adults each have their own hand towel which is washed regularly.
- Children's hand washing and hand drying is supervised at all times.
- Children's hands are washed and dried after;
 - On arrival to the setting and before they leave the setting

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- using the toilet,
- after handling animals,
- after sneezing,
- blowing nose,
- coughing,
- or touching a cut or sore
- before eating or handling food
- after coming in from playing outside
- when hands are visibly dirty
- Staff must wash their hands,
 - When arriving at the setting and before leaving the setting
 - before preparing or serving food,
 - before feeding children,
 - before eating or drinking,
 - after going to the toilet,
 - after assisting children going to the toilet,
 - after dealing with bodily fluids,
 - after cleaning procedures,
 - after caring for sick children,
 - after handling soiled clothing,
 - after dealing with waste
 - after removing disposable gloves
 - If in contact with someone who is displaying any COVID -19 symptoms
- Cuts and sores must be covered with suitable dressings
- How to wash your hands with soap and water (HSE):
 - Wet your hands with warm water and apply soap.
 - Rub your hands together until the soap forms a lather.
 - Rub the top of your hands, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
 - Do this for about 20 seconds.
 - Rinse your hands under running water.
 - Dry your hands with a clean towel or paper towel.
- Children learn the washing hands song and encouraged to sing it while washing their hands. This method ensures they wash hands for the required 20 seconds.

Respiratory hygiene (coughing and sneezing)

- All adults and children cover their mouths and nose with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing. (See Appendix B.)
- Tissues are readily accessible throughout the service with a dedicated pedal operated bin provided in each of the rooms and in the outdoor areas for easy disposal of used tissues.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing

Staff must:

- Adopt good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Ensure they are familiar with and follow respiratory hygiene guidance.

Personal protective clothing

- It is currently the opinion of public health that the use of face masks, especially among young children, has the potential to cause more harm than good.

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- Staff have to wear a mask when dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19.
- Face masks are readily available within the setting and can be used by staff whenever they feel it necessary.
- Disposable gloves must always be used when
 - cleaning up spills of body fluids
 - dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19
 - Assisting a child going to the toilet
- Disposable gloves are readily available within the setting.
- Disposable aprons are also readily available within the setting and encouraged to use when dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19.

This policy was adopted by **Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd** on:

Date: _____

Manager

co-Manager

Review Date: _____