

Greenbank Pre School

Prevention of Infection Policy



Greenbank Pre School

Edinburgh Greenbank Parish Church of Scotland
Braidburn Terrace
Edinburgh EH10 6ES

SPPA Registration No: 0923

Charity No SCO11325

Prevention of Infection Policy

(Adapted from SPPA infection control policy)

Young children under the age of six are often susceptible to infectious diseases because their immunity may not be fully developed. Their close contact in care and play situations, coupled with their inexperience in practicing good hygiene, makes it easy for germs to spread.

The mainstay of infection control in pre-school groups is the implementation of basic precautions outlined in this policy, underpinned by a common sense understanding of how germs are transmitted.

Policy Statement

Management committee and/or staff members will report any concerns about illness, outbreaks or incidents of infection to their Public Health Protection Unit (tel:0141 300 1100), so appropriate prompt action may be taken.

Children or adults suffering from an infectious disease will be excluded from the group for a period as advised by medical guidance.

The group will provide a healthy and hygienic environment for children and will endeavor to minimize the risk of infection by endorsing basic hygiene procedures.

If a child becomes unwell during the session they will be taken to a quiet area away from others, monitored and the child's carer will be notified and asked to collect the child.

All cases of infections are recorded in the accident/incident record book along with the action taken (eg. exclusion/informing other parents). This is kept in the filing cabinet in the office. The types of suspected infections reported to other parents will be measles, chicken pox, mumps, scabies, meningitis, and whooping cough. The anonymity of children and staff involved will be maintained.

Equipment within the playroom is cleaned regularly and home made playdough and sand will be changed at regular intervals.

Staff and parent helpers will be made aware of, and be expected to adhere to the following procedures and guidelines:

Procedures

Hand Washing

Hand washing is the most important public health measure of all time. Effective hand washing is the mainstay of infection control for most germs amongst children and adults in a pre-school setting, regardless of the way germs are transmitted.

Children are taught the importance of hand washing and how to wash their hands, and are aware they need to do this after visiting the toilet and prior to snack. This is done in the first weeks of the year in both a group and individual setting, and recorded in a child's learning log.

Very young children will have help with hand washing and older children will be supervised during hand washing. Liquid soap and paper towels from dispensers on the wall above the wash basin will be used.

Illness

On occasions there may be instances when children should be excluded from a pre-school setting, both in terms of the child's personal well-being as well as that of staff, parent helpers and other children.

Children or adults **will not** be permitted to attend the pre-school group if suffering from diarrhoea, fever, prolonged coughing spells, discharging conjunctivitis, whooping cough, mumps, measles, chicken pox, impetigo, German measles etc. (a full list is available from pre-school)

If a child contracts an infectious illness the group should be informed as soon as possible to enable precautions regarding cross infection to be taken.

To prevent cross contamination and spread of infections in the group the following practice will be adhered to:

- Disposable powder-free gloves will be worn when changing nappies and dealing with toilet accidents. Hands will be washed after removing disposable gloves.
- Any accidents will be cleaned immediately using appropriate cleaners and disinfectants.
- Soiled clothing will be placed in a sealed polythene bag and given to the child's parent/carer to wash.

Food handling and Storage

All staff are aware of current food hygiene advice and those that have attended training in this area have certificates displayed on the notice board.

It is essential for food safety to have systems and procedures in place within the kitchen to prevent cross contamination between raw and cooked foods, and to ensure that foods are cooked or re-heated thoroughly and stored at the correct temperature.

Hands are thoroughly washed prior to handling or serving food and a reminder regarding this is in the form of a notice in the kitchen area.

A fridge thermometer is in place and checked and recorded daily by parents as part of their snack duty.

Further guidance on other procedures is displayed in the kitchen area.

All re-useable cups and dishes will be washed with antibacterial detergent according to food hygiene regulations.

In addition raw shell eggs should not be used in uncooked dishes, and cake mix etc should not be eaten. Raw egg shells will be disposed of safely in the compost bin.

Cleaning and Disinfection in the Environment

Good housekeeping including vacuuming (avoid sweeping), damp dusting and washing is essential in the prevention of the spread of infection. Standard household general purpose detergent is usually sufficient for cleaning most surfaces, which are cleaned twice daily, after each session

Disinfectants may be required: during an outbreak of gastroenteritis
dealing with blood or blood stained spillages

Rubber gloves and a plastic apron will be worn when cleaning up small spillages/smears of blood, vomit or excreta. Soak up as much of the spillage as possible with disposable towels. Clean the area thoroughly with hot water and detergent and finally disinfect with bleach (1% hypochlorite solution) which should be left on for at least 10 minutes. Wipe the disinfectant off and dry thoroughly.

Hygiene and Disposal of Nappies

Children are changed in the designated toilet area, where nappy sacks and disinfectant wipes and gloves are available. Gloves are worn while changing the soiled nappy.

All soiled nappies and wipes are placed in nappy sacks and disposed of in a nappy bin. This bin is emptied on a regular basis by a contractor arranged through the church.

Once the child has been cleaned, changed and removed from the area, the changing surface is cleaned with a general purpose detergent and water and rinsed and dried. Hands are thoroughly washed after removing gloves.

Contact with Animals

During visits to farms, zoos and wildlife parks, children are often encouraged to touch livestock and help to feed them, which presents a risk of acquiring infections.

Visits to these places are part of the group's activities.

Before the visit appropriate checks will be made regarding facilities by the staff. During the visit cuts should be covered and sturdy shoes/boots worn. Hands should be kept away from mouths, and hands should be washed after touching animals and before meals, which should be taken well away from animals. Hands should also be washed at the end of the visit.

When animals are brought into the nursery allergies will be considered prior to the visit. Hands are washed after touching animals.

HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C

These are spread by direct contact with an infected person's blood or certain body fluids. They are **not** spread by normal daily contact and activities eg. coughing, kissing hugging sharing utensils. Universal precautions are taken at all times when dealing with spillages of blood/body fluids as outlined earlier in this document.

Head Lice

These are a common problem affecting the whole community, whose main symptom is scalp itching, and they are contracted only by direct head to head contact. They can be treated with insecticide lotions or mechanically removed. An "alert letter" should be restricted to inform **only** the parents of the child who appears to have a head lice infection, who can then seek further advice from a health professional. Exclusion from nursery is generally **not** required.

Further advice can be obtained from www.scotland.gov.uk or www.healthscotland.com

Reportable diseases

Reporting of **Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 RIDDOR'95** - requires reporting of work related diseases to the Incident Contact Centre (08453009923; www.riddor.gov.uk) and includes diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, TB, occupational dermatitis.

All staff and committee members will have a working knowledge of this policy.

Date of review

Name