



Covid 19

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

We have developed these Safe Operating Procedures based on guidance from the Department of Education and the National Institute for Health Protection specifically for Early Years. It is important that we adapt our everyday practices to ensure that we continue to offer the staff and children a safe environment. Hygiene and social distancing remain the two key elements of infection prevention and control. If any symptoms are displayed, families must be alert and self-isolate for the safety of everyone.

COVID-19 appears to affect young children less often and with less severity. Children's role in its transmission is unclear but it seems that it is not significant.

Compassionate leadership is at the heart of offering continued nursery care and we will do everything we can to be honest, open and to communicate with you. There will be a lot of anxieties and we acknowledge that it is OK to feel worried and that COVID-19 and the lockdown has had an impact on everyone.

Everyone involved in the day to day running of the Peter Rabbit nursery will receive guidance and support on how to operate under the terms this policy. All staff have been involved with implementing a Covid 19 risk assessment.

We aim to work in partnership with parents and trust that everyone understands and follows these Safe Operating Procedures.

The key principles of these procedures are:

1. Any pupil, staff member, parent or visitor with coronavirus symptoms must not attend nursery and must isolate at home
2. Increased cleaning processes are in place, throughout and at the end of the day
3. Nursery staff will be socially distanced from each other, as far as possible
4. As the nursery has one playroom, everyone in the room will form one bubble.
5. Key groups will be in place for small group activities.
6. Arrival and departure are staggered.
7. Parents will not come on site or visit the nursery unless this is explicitly arranged with the Manager e.g. in the event of a child being distressed.
8. The process for settling in sessions will be managed away from the other children.

9. Parents and staff members must remain socially distanced, where this is not possible a mask must be worn.
10. Staff members who are cleaning, changing nappies or handling food must wear the appropriate PPE at all times (gloves and apron).

Attendance

Children and employees are welcome to attend nursery but must not be displaying any coronavirus symptoms, the most common being a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste and smell. There is some suggestion that mottled skin or sickness and diarrhoea can also be a symptom.

It is important that you seek medical advice if you are unsure.

It is important that children do not attend nursery if unwell for their own wellbeing and for the safety of others. Children will not be accepted to nursery if they have been given Calpol or any other medication that can mask fever symptoms.

Anyone who is experiencing any symptoms cannot return to nursery until they have completed the required isolation period, in line with government guidelines, and be symptom free or have achieved a negative test result. Prompt exclusion is essential to preventing the spread of infection. Children and employees who are classed as clinically vulnerable should follow their own medical advice before attending nursery.

It is preferable that your child only attends one setting to avoid mixing with different groups of children. Please speak with the Manager if this is going to be a problem or to make them aware that this is the case.

Drop off and collection of children

Parents are asked to drop off and collect their children the designated entrance and not to enter the nursery. Whilst parents are waiting, it is important to maintain social distancing by keeping a distance of two metres apart. It is preferable if only one parent carries out drop off and collection. If social distancing is not possible, parents are requested to wear masks. Handovers will continue to be predominantly outdoors

Temperature and symptom monitoring

Routine temperature testing is not recommended as a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. Parents and employees should follow the NHS guidelines regarding isolation and testing criteria.

Peter Rabbit Nursery are very conscious that during the colder, winter months young children will get temperatures to help them to fight cold and flu symptoms. Congestion, red eyed, catarrh filled coughs are not thought to be symptomatic for COVID-19 and may not indicate that a child needs to undergo a coronavirus test. Please only bring your child to nursery if they are well enough to attend. Staff members will monitor the children in

their care and will make reasonable judgements on whether a family is advised to undergo testing. We ask that families do the same and monitor their children's wellness, making the decision if they need to isolate, undergo testing, or are well enough to attend a nursery setting. If a child has a dry, continuous cough or a persistent temperature (over 24 hours) accompanied by flu or cold symptoms they will still be asked to book a coronavirus test.

If your child is due vaccinations Peter Rabbits will ask for evidence of this by sharing the child's red book to justify a child's temperature.

Children who have asthma or other breathing related difficulties should be known to nursery staff and can attend nursery as usual with their medical plans in place

Implementing social distancing

It is very difficult to avoid a level of physical interaction with young children and it is important to have their wellbeing at the centre of everything we do. If a child is in need of a hug, then it would not be fair to deny them this. To help with social distancing the children will be grouped in small groups for some indoor and outdoor activities

Employees

All employees at the nursery are aware of Covid 19 risk assessment and how to implement the Safe Operating Procedures, with emphasis on good hygiene practices, good air circulation and maintaining social distancing between adults.

Wellbeing

We know that this is a very unusual and worrying time for everyone. It is very important that at the forefront of this heightened awareness of safe operating procedures, we do not forget that care and consideration must be taken of the need to ensure that everyone within the nursery community feels safe and secure. We will try our best to create a normal nursery environment and hope that you will bear with us.

We will concentrate on building secure attachments and we will continue observing and assessing the children, regularly updating Tapestry.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff, it is important that you inform the key person or Manager so arrangements can be put in place.

Visitor

Settling in sessions/transitions

Parents may enter the nursery garden for the purpose of settling-in sessions, if not doing so would cause a child distress. The Manager will give further guidance on the day. It is important that social distancing continues to be maintained. The parent will only be able

to enter the nursery room if they are wearing a mask, but preferably parents should stay in the garden.

Visitors

Visitors to the nursery will not be encouraged unless it involves a safeguarding issue that cannot be resolved by telephone. Interviews or meetings will be conducted via video conference. Parent's evenings will still be organised but will be conducted over the telephone.

Nursery show-rounds

Prospective parents should make use of the nursery website for information relating to the ethos and organisation of the nursery. There are videos showing the nursery and also the activities that take place. If a parent would really like to view the nursery, visits must be booked after the children have gone home.

Contractors

Any contractors visiting the nursery to carry out maintenance and repairs will be reminded of National Institute for Health Protection guidance prior to entering the building.

Health, Hygiene and Safety

Reducing the spread of the virus

It is recognised that good hygiene and cleaning practices will significantly reduce the spread and transmission of the virus as well as everyone being alert to the symptoms. Doors and windows will be opened as much as possible.

Cleaning

An enhanced cleaning schedule will be implemented throughout and at the end of the day. Communal areas, door handles and shared facilities e.g. iPads, must be regularly cleaned. The Manager will be responsible for recording these cleaning schedules.

The rate of hand washing must be significantly increased. Everyone, including children, must wash their hands on arrival at nursery. Sanitiser is only to be used by adults without access to wash basins (i.e. parents who need to use a doorbell). There will be regular opportunities for hand washing throughout the day.

Use of Tissues

The children will be supported in age-appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves and others safe and this includes sneezing into a tissue (or their arm if immediate) and then to dispose of the tissue.

Toileting

The children will be taken to the toilets and supervised. Hand washing signs will be displayed to ensure hand washing is thorough and the practitioners will talk to the children about why we are washing our hands.

Risk assessments

The COVID risk assessments will reflect the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Certain activities could be adapted or removed to reflect this risk

Items from home

If your child requires a comforter e.g. soft toy or blanket, please bring it in a bag and then take home at the end of the day and wash it. We would prefer no toys or comforters to be brought into nursery but do understand that this could cause distress.

Resources at Nursery

We will aim to sanitise items at the end of each day. Furnishings (i.e. cushions, rugs,) and item that cannot be disinfected or sanitised will be removed.

Responding to a person displaying symptoms of COVID-19

A child

If a child is suspected of displaying coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the nursery, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance. The child must be tested before they return.

Whilst waiting to be collected, they will be isolated from others in a designated area. An employee will stay with them and will wear PPE.

If the child becomes very unwell, we will follow our normal emergency procedures and call 999.

The isolation area will be cleaned once the child has been collected.

An employee who displays symptoms

In the event of an employee developing coronavirus symptoms whilst at work, they will leave work immediately and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance. They will be required to have a test before they return.

PPE Equipment

Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in nurseries to protect against COVID-19 transmission. Hand washing, effective cleaning and social distancing are the most effective measures. Gloves and aprons will be used for nappy changing and first aid. Aprons will be worn at mealtimes.

Reporting, testing and tracing

Everyone is now eligible for a COVID-19 test, should they display coronavirus symptoms.

Any suspected or confirmed case must be reported to the Manager as soon as possible. If a positive result is confirmed, the practitioners and children associated with that group must self-isolate for 10 days before returning to nursery, regardless of whether they have a negative test result themselves. Positive tests will be reported to the National Institute for Health Protection and Ofsted by the nursery.

If someone in your household, or someone you have close contact with, is contacted by track and trace or is told they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you do not need to be tested. If they test positive, then you will also need to self-isolate for 10 days even if you do not test positive yourself. You should only book a test yourself if you develop symptoms.

The Government's tracing app is a way of helping to protect everyone.