

# Infection Control

At **Early Start Education Ltd (Early Start)** we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency), [Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings](#), [Guidance on infection control exclusion periods poster](#) and other national / local guidance as may be provided from time to time in relation to infection control for specific illnesses.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

Early Start follow the guidelines below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the setting. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids/personal care. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day, cleaning as and when if required
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to control for cross-contamination with other children
- Store tooth brushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child

# Infection Control

- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Ensure staff, visitors, children remove all outdoor footwear (or adults use shoe covers) when entering the rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and provide storage for children if they wish to do the same
- Follow the Child Sickness and Illness Policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery
- For staff to do the same if they are ill and this may be contagious.

In addition:

- Early Start Education Ltd and it's staff retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery. Details are outlined in our Parents Welcome Pack (including T&Cs, Consent Form)
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.