



8 Coventry Road, Bulkington, Bedworth, Warwickshire. CV12 9ND. Telephone 02476 318436

83. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy

The key priority of Shapes Day Nursery at all times is the health, safety and well-being of the children in our care, our staff and all of our families. In specific regard to the current pandemic, we are operating to our own comprehensive and regularly updated COVID-19 policies regarding infection control, and we will also continue to introduce additional measures in line with the latest guidance from NHS, Public Health Bodies, and government agencies.

Our setting will operate differently on re-opening and we have put in place measures, first and foremost to protect health and lives, they are realistic, honest, achievable in childcare and have been written with integrity.

It is estimated that these measures are likely to last months so it is really important to work closely with our children, families and colleagues to ensure that we open our setting with the very best endeavour.

Here is a brief overview of the practices which we have developed to minimise risk and keep everyone safe. However, COVID-19 is a fast-moving situation and new guidance may be released at any time, for this reason, we reserve the right to update or change any documents at any time in the future.

Our Duties

- To continue to ensure the safety measures are effective and practiced by all colleagues when returning to work, post furlough/opening of a setting.
- Ensure we train all colleagues on their return to work in our new safety measures and hygiene practices to reduce the spread of infection.
- Take reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of all our children families and colleagues to prevent exposure to unnecessary risk and ensuring protective measures are in place.
- Ensure colleagues are physically fit and mentally well to return to work.

- Ensuring that managers are responsible for keeping abreast of developments from NHS, Public Health Bodies and UK Government.
- Ensure we communicate our safety measures to parents so they can make an informed decision if to leave their child in our care and equally on doing so, are clear what our policies and procedures are.
- Ensure we keep up to date with the latest government guidelines regarding Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) around COVID-19 and self-isolation.
- Review our safeguarding policy to ensure it safeguards children and colleagues during the pandemic and colleagues know how to report any COVID-19 related incidents.

Controlling access to nursery

- No staff member who has COVID-19 symptoms, (or who has a member of their family displaying symptoms will be admitted into the nursery until they have completed self-isolation in line with government guidance or have had a test and tested negative.
- Parents are asked to confirm at the nursery entrance that neither their child nor anybody in their household is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms such as a new cough, high temperature of 37.8°C or more, or loss of (or change in) their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- Non-essential visitors are not permitted at the nursery.
- At drop off and pick up times (opening and closing times have been amended and staggered to manage social distancing requirements) parents are required to hand their child to a member of staff at the nursery entrance and remain a 2 metre distance from other parents (staff will sign children in and out). Markers will be used outside to help with this.
- As developments in the coronavirus pandemic remain uncertain around the world and no travel is currently risk-free - families travelling abroad must notify us in advance of their destination and travel dates. Government guidance will be followed with regards to self-isolation requirements on return. No child will be exempt from this guidance.

Enhanced health and hygiene procedures

- Regular ongoing cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and objects. These include high-risk contact areas such as door handles and doors, children's resources, taps, toilet flushes, sinks, countertops, keyboards and ipads. We have removed activities which could pose a risk for cross contamination. We have closed our sandpit and large climbing frame.
- Frequent handwashing by children and staff throughout the day.
- We are ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to any coughs and sneezes. Children will be supported to ensure they wash their hands properly.

Reorganising nursery routines

- Children will be cared for in consistent groups in line with government guidance.
- Activities/resources will be removed which could pose a risk of cross contamination.
- We will play outdoors as much as possible – separating the garden into areas for different rooms to use.
- Routines will be changed to reduce children congregating together.

Learning and development requirements

- During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak we will use reasonable endeavours to meet the existing learning and development requirements and will record and observations and assessments on Tapestry.
- As a temporary arrangement we will not have weekly focus children or follow 'In The Moment Planning'. (refer to disapplications guidance).
- The most important thing is that children are cared for and as far as possible should benefit from a broad range of educational opportunities.
- The progress check at age 2 will not need to be undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Practitioners to remain alert to any emerging concerns about any child in their care and endeavour to provide or seek additional support if needed.

