

Health

6.9 Extreme Circumstances including Pandemic.

Policy statement

Our setting believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

Our committee believes in being open and ethical in dealing with parents, and considering what is the best procedure for the protection of the children in our care.

This policy is based on the Covid-19 update from the Early Year Alliance in May 2020

Procedures

In the event that schools are advised to close due to the pandemic then the manager and representative of the committee shall;

- Follow the guidelines for The Early Years sector provided by the Government.
- Review and evaluate the working situations of all children in line with the government's recommendations for that situation. The preschool shall consider what is in the best interest of each child (likely to be remain at home)
- Should the preschool have less than 3 children requiring care between the settings, the preschools shall close until the government reopens the schools.
- Parent contact shall be continued. This will include YouTube/Facebook videos, phone calls, and emails.

Re- opening

- The manager/ leads shall follow all government guidelines to create a risk assessment for each setting separately. This will be created with the Health and Safety officer for each setting, and will be approved by the chair. It will be circulated to all staff before the opening takes place, and they should have an opportunity to comment and suggest changes.
- The Health and Safety Officers for the settings are:

Baynards - Lorraine Hall

Milldene – Susie Threadgold

- The preschool shall put into place any and all practices as suggested by government guidelines, and shall constantly review to ensure compliance. This review shall be by either the chair, manager, leads, or health and safety officers.
- A parent declaration will be created and sent to all parents to be signed before their child returns outlining what we expect from them, and the changes at the settings.

Change to policies for the duration of the pandemic

1.2 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults

Staff to remain alert to any signs that during the pandemic a child in their care is suffering from or likely to suffer from harm including signs of neglect that may be caused by extraordinary circumstances due to measures to curb the spread of the virus.

2.2 Student placement

We will follow the advice given on student placements during a Pandemic. If advised that students may attend the Preschool then a Risk Assessment will be completed before their placement. This does not include any apprenticeships.

4.1. The role of the key person

It is unlikely children will be with their usual key worker. Where this is the case, the principles of the key person role need to be followed as closely as possible.

5.1 Staffing

During pandemics, staff will be deployed as per the government guidance. Places for children will be based on the government's recommendations, and caps on numbers will be likely.

Relaxation of the rules on ratios may be implemented only in exceptional circumstances, and must be based on a risk assessment approach with the authorisation of the manager.

Should staff not be able to provide childcare for their own children then they may bring them into the setting provided they fall within the stipulated age of the settings Ofsted registration (2 – 5). Fees must be paid for these children.

6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

During a pandemic, should a child show any symptoms (as defined by the government), then the following steps shall be taken

- Child presents with symptoms; following advice parents must be notified & ensure that they know their responsibilities.
- parents contacted the child.
- If the child is fee paying, the fees are still payable.
- Should the child or any member of staff be confirmed as having a notifiable disease (including the pandemic symptoms), the setting must contact the DfE Helpline for advice on action to take. Following advice Parents must be notified & ensure that they know their responsibilities.
- Ofsted must be informed of any confirmed cases.
- ECC must be notified.
- The setting should undertake a deep clean if the setting has 2 consecutive cases, which may involve closing for a set period.
- The manager/Leads will keep a full record of children affected, how long they are away from the setting, and the date on which they return.

6.5 Food and drink

Tables should never be crowded during mealtimes. Where possible children should be facing outwards whilst eating, away from others.

8.3 Supervision of children on outings and visits

Trips and outings are suspended for the duration of the pandemic. We will follow the government guidelines on visitors to the setting.

8.6 Animals in the setting

As the setting may have to close at short notice at any time during a pandemic, alternative arrangements will be in place for any pets and animals that currently inhabit the setting. No new animals or pets will be taken on during the crisis.

9.11 Promoting positive behaviour

This is an unsettling time for young children. Practitioners are alert to the emotional well-being of children who may be affected by the disruption to their normal routine. Where a child's behaviour gives cause for concern, practitioners take into consideration the many factors that may be affecting them. This will be done in partnership with the child's parents/carers and the principles of this procedure are adhered to.

8.11 Safety and suitability of premises, environment, equipment.

- *Extreme weather*

Should the weather be such that the staff are unable to safely travel to the preschool, then the preschool shall close until such time it is safe for staff to return. This includes heavy snow and extreme wind.

Parents and carers will be contacted to the best of the ability of the preschool to announce the closure, including email notifications.

Closure to be announced on the website and all social media platforms where the preschool has a presence.

- *Damage to buildings*

Should any building being used by the preschool be damaged by fire, flood or any other act outside the control of the committee, the supervisor or health and safety officer will carry out a risk assessment to determine if the preschool can continue until repairs have been made.

If the setting must close until repairs are complete, a risk assessment will be carried out on the children needing places and those most in need will be offered temporary places at another site.

This policy was adopted by	Tiptree Preschool Playgroup	<i>(name of provider)</i>
Adopted at an AGM meeting on	10/02/2021	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	10/02/2022	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	Jade Oakes	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chair	

8.4 Risk Assessment.

8.11 Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment & Equipment Policy.