

Hygiene & Prevention of Spread of Infectious Diseases Policy

Tir na nOg Preschool is committed to the promotion of a healthy environment and a high standard of personal hygiene for adults and children including a high standard of hygiene in relation to toileting. It is the policy of the service to promote the take-up and completion of immunisation programmes.

Tir na nOg Preschool complies with all the relevant legislation including:

- Health Act 1947
- Child Care (Pre-school Services) Regulations, 2006
- Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 as amended.
- I.S. 340 Hygiene and Catering Requirements.
- I.S. 344 Guide to Good Hygiene Practices in Domestic Premises.
- E.C. Hygiene of Foodstuffs Regulations 2000 (S.I. 165 of 2000)

Staff:

1. Staff must always model and explain the reasons for hygiene practices. Staff must be aware at all times that in their personal and professional hygiene practices and routines they are setting an example for the children by;
 - Washing hands after using the toilet
 - Washing hands before and after handling food .
 - Washing hands after outdoor play or play with pets.
2. Staff must cover all cuts and sores with suitable dressings.
3. When dealing with spills;
 - Good quality disposable gloves must always be used when cleaning up spills of body fluids (vomit, blood, urine and excrement).
 - Any spills of body fluids or excrement must be wiped up with disposable paper towels and hygienically disposed of in double plastic bags.

- The area of the accident must be treated with a chlorine or iodine bleach based solution, diluted according to the manufacturers' instructions using disposable cloths.
- A supply of clean clothing must be readily available for accidents.
- A supply of polythene bags must be available to wrap soiled garments.

General Cleaning:

1. Mops for general floor washing must be disinfected using rubber gloves and must be left to dry, mop head up and replaced regularly.
2. All toilets, surrounding walls and wash hand basins must be cleaned and disinfected every day and between sessions if there is more than one session
3. We have a daily and weekly cleaning routine in respect of floors, tables, playroom and outdoor equipment and toys.
4. Dressing up clothes are washed regularly.
5. The sand is replaced regularly and the water is replaced every day.
6. Cups/beakers, plates, etc are washed daily in a dishwasher.
7. All cleaning cloths, towels, etc.. are changed every day and each child/adult has their own towel.
8. Any leftover food is disposed of properly.

Infectious Disease Control:

1. Children and adults with heavy colds or coughs must not attend the childcare service. It is advisable that a child who has been sick during the night must not attend the service.
2. Any children of childcare staff who are ill must not accompany their parent to work in the service.
3. Information on childhood infectious diseases is available at the service.
4. Children with infectious diseases must not attend the service. Information on exclusion periods is available.

5. A dated notice informing all parents/guardians of an infectious disease outbreak/incidence will be displayed on the notice board and all parents/guardians will also be informed.
6. Head Louse infestation is a contagious condition, and when noticed in the service parents/guardians will be notified.

Please note: Following this policy is an information section regarding Health and how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. There are also copies of my General Hygiene and Personal Care Routines.