

 **Infection Control**

This policy is designed to ensure that a safe, healthy environment is maintained at Jollytots. The nursery recognises that infections can spread easily amongst children in a childcare environment therefore we will endeavour to ensure that infections are controlled and good health and hygiene practices are maintained.

This policy will help you to understand how to deal with illness when your child is with us.

At Jollytots we aim to prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and infections by adhering to the following procedures-

* Excluding children with infectious illnesses and infections for the recommended period of time
* Excluding all members of staff with infectious illnesses and infections for the recommended period of time
* Identifying signs of illness in children and staff when they are in the setting
* Informing parents and carers of sick children that their children are ill and arranging for them to be collected at the earliest opportunity
* Limiting the contact of sick children with other children until they can be collected from the setting, taking into account the sensitivity of the situation
* Preventing the spread of infection by adhering to all relating policies
* Reporting incidences of certain infections to other parents/carers and member of staff whilst maintaining the anonymity of all children and members of staff involved

**Dealing with a child who has become unwell**

Children who become unwell during the course of the day will be made comfortable and will be cared for by a member of staff until a parent or carer can make suitable arrangements. If the parent/carer cannot be contacted staff will ring the emergency contact provided on the registration form.

**Exclusion guidelines**

Jollytots do accept that it can be difficult to ascertain whether a child is well enough to attend nursery. We do, however, have to take into account ALL children and staff and also that there are some vulnerable children in the nursery. To ensure that infection and illness is kept to a minimum the nursery will implement the following guidelines-

* Any child who is ill from anything other than a common cold should not attend nursery
* We are unable to take any medical tests for children in our care eg urine samples
* Any child who has an illness that results in a greater need for care than members of staff can provide and who may be placing other children at risk will be excluded until such time as treatment is received and they are feeling better
* Any member of staff that has an illness that affects their ability to carry out their duties and who may be placing children or other members of staff at risk will be excluded until such time as treatment has been received and they are feeling better
* Parents must inform staff when leaving the child to nursery or afterschools if the child has been unwell and if any medication has been given
* If a child develops a temperature, staff will give paracetamol. Permission will have been sought upon registration. We will also ring parents beforehand to inform them that it is being given. If parents or emergency number cannot be contacted beforehand, the manager will make the decision whether to give paracetamol (providing permission has been received from registration form) until we can make contact with the parents. This is to prevent febrile convulsion or the child’s temperature becoming higher. If the temperature does not come down, parents will be asked to make arrangements to collect their child. A child cannot stay in nursery or afterschools if one dose of paracetamol is not controlling the temperature.
* Any child or member of staff showing signs of fever (that paracetamol does not bring down), lethargy, difficulty breathing or any other manifestations of severe illness will be excluded until such times as a diagnosis has been made, treatment received and they are feeling better
* Teething- NHS guidelines state that a temperature above 38c is not consistent with teething. Any temperature above 38c will not be treated as teething
* If a child has 1 episode of vomiting or 3 episodes of diarrhoea parents will be called and the child sent home and exclusion period for gastric upset applies.
* Gastric upset: 48 hours exclusion after last attack of vomiting or diarrhoea
* Rash with fever or behavioural change: exclusion until medical advice has been sought and a determination of further infection is made
* Fever/throat infections: exclusion until 24 hours after fever has gone down
* Shingles: exclusion until lesions are crusted
* Impetigo: exclusion for at least 48 hours after treatment has been received and spots are no longer weeping
* Head lice- exclusion until after treatment has been given
* Chickenpox- exclusion until all vesicles have crusted over, generally well and no temperature
* German measles- Four days from onset of rash
* Hand foot and mouth- We recommend that children are excluded from nursery for 3 days. This is to attempt to control the spread of infection. As with all illnesses, they must be generally well, no temperature and be able to take part in the nursery day.
* Measles- Four days after onset of rash, no temperature and feeling well
* Ring worm- Those who have the infection in an exposed area such as scalp and hands will be excluded for 1 week and permitted to return only after treatment has commenced. Those who have the infection on a part of the body that can be covered can return 24 hours after treatment has begun. They should not share clothing or towels and wash hands thoroughly after using toilet and before and after eating.
* Flu- until recovered and no temperature
* Glandular fever- exclusion until generally well and no temperature
* Meningitis- until recovered
* E.coli- excluded for 48 hours from the last onset of diarrhoea
* Slapped cheek- no temperature and generally well
* Whooping cough- 48 hours after commencing antibiotic or 21 days from onset if no antibiotic treatment
* Conjunctivitis- no exclusion but child must have treatment from Doctor before returning to nursery
* Scarlet Fever- Can return 24 hours after starting antibiotic, no temperature
* Scabies- Can return after first treatment
* Covid- Until fully recovered and no temperature
* Mumps- Exclusion until 5 days after onset of swelling, no temperature and generally well

All infectious illnesses must be reported to the manager who will advise and make the decision to inform other members of staff and parents/carers.

**The premises**

Jollytots will endeavour to ensure that the layout, design, construction and size of premises must permit adequate maintenance, cleaning and working spaces. The premises-

* Will be pest proof
* Have suitably located wash hand basins provided and supplied with soap, warm running water and disposable hand drying towels
* Will have suitable lighting
* Will provide space for storage of cleaning equipment and chemicals
* Will have suitable arrangements for the storage and disposal of waste
* Will keep external waste storage clean and tidy
* Will keep all surfaces clean and dry and all spills cleaned up immediately with appropriate cleaning materials

**Training**

Jollytots will ensure that all staff have a clear understanding of their roles in preventing the spread of infection. They will be familiar with policies and procedure in place.

**Hand washing**

The importance of correct hand washing will be taught and reinforced in all children and staff. Suitable and sufficient hand washing facilities will be provided for effective handwashing. There will be guidelines displayed in every room on when and how to wash your hands. There will be warm running water, liquid soap and disposable towels supplied.

**Cleaning of toys and equipment**

Toys and equipment are a very important aspect of the social and educational development of a child. However, they can become contaminated with microorganisms from unwashed hands and body fluids. Jollytots will take into account safety as one of the main considerations when choosing toys and play equipment. We do acknowledge that there is no complete eradicate of contamination but to help reduce contamination Jollytots will-

* Ensure that all toys and equipment can be easily cleaned/decontaminated
* Have a clear cleaning schedule in place explaining when toys have been cleaned and who was responsible
* Check toys regularly for damage and discard them if required
* Wash hard plastic toys with disinfectant and rinse and dry thoroughly
* Wash soft toys in a washing machine at the highest possible temperature as per manufacturer’s instructions
* Store all toys in clean washable containers
* Remove toys that are visibly soiled and clean and disinfect immediately
* Ensure that water toys are emptied after every use and clean appropriately
* Cover sand pits when not in use and clean and replace regularly. Sand spills to floor will be discarded.
* Ensure hands are washed and skin lesions covered before and after using playdough. Playdough will be used no longer than a week

**Dummies**

* Dummies should be clearly labelled for each child
* Sharing of dummies is not allowed
* All rooms will have a process to ensure that dummies are kept separate
* If dummy falls on floor, it will be washed before given back to child
* Dummies when not in use will be stored in a way that the child’s name is clearly labelled

**Toilets**

Jollytots are aware that children will only develop good hygiene practices when using the toilet if appropriate advice is given and adequate facilities are available. Jollytots will ensure that:

* Toilet areas are kept clean and regularly checked throughout the day and cleaned and disinfected as required
* Young children will be supervised when using toilet and washing hands
* Child sized toilets and sinks are available
* There is an adequate supply of toilet tissue, soap and disposable hand towels

**Potties**

To help limit the spread of infection when using potties Jollytots will ensure that:

* After use, the contents are emptied down toilet and the toilet lid closed before flushing to minimise spread of contents
* After emptying, potties are washed, disinfected and dried thoroughly with disposable towels. Hands will then be washed with soap and water
* Potties are not washed in hand basins
* Potties that are cracked or damaged will be disposed off

**Nappies**

Jollytots will supply appropriate facilities for changing nappies. To limit the spread of infection the following procedures are put in place:

* A clean pair of gloves is worn for each nappy change
* Staff will wear a disposable apron
* Gloves and apron will be put on before commencing task
* Hands are washed before gloves are put on and after gloves are taken off
* Changing mats will have a sealed plastic covering and check frequently for cracks
* The changing mat will be cleaned, disinfected and dried after each nappy change
* Clean nappies will be stored in a clean dry place
* Soiled nappies will be placed in a nappy bin and disposed of regularly throughout the day
* Each child will have their own cream, if needed, supplied by parent/guardian, and clearly labelled with child’s name. A gloved hand will be used when applying creams
* Staff should ensure they have all the equipment they need beforehand
* Children will never be left alone on a nappy bench

**Cleaning materials**

Jollytots will ensure that all cleaning materials are kept in a locked cupboard out of reach of children. Children will not be allowed to access this cupboard for any reason.

**Changing sick/soiled children**

If a child has been very sick or soiled and needs to be changed:

* put on disposable gloves and apron
* take the child to the nearest toilet area
* remove soiled clothing
* wash child as appropriate with warm water using a disposable cloth and dress in clean clothes
* all soiled clothing must be immediately double-bagged using nappy sacks/plastic bags and tied tightly at the top to seal (child’s name on the outside and given home to the parents)
* discard all disposables in the Sangenic
* wash and dry your hands

**Pets and farm visits**

Jollytots accept that children can get much pleasure and educational properties from animals and pets. It is important therefore that hygiene rules are followed:

* One person has the responsibility to look after the pet
* Pets living condition must be kept clean
* Staff and children’s hands must be washed after contact with pets or animals
* Children must always be supervised
* Children must be discouraged from kissing pets or allowing them to lick their face
* Animal food must not be kept with food for human consumption
* When visiting farm or anything with animals, hygiene precautions must be taken and a risk assessment carried out

**Staff health**

All staff should be neat and tidy with high standards of personal hygiene. When working with children, health and safety is paramount, so:

* long hair should be tied back
* nails kept clean and short
* no excessive jewellery
* clothing should be clean and ironed as appropriate
* remove outdoor footwear or use ‘blue shoes’ when entering the baby or toddler room

**Cooking/Baking**

* children and staff must wash their hands prior to taking part in a cooking/baking activity
* the table top or other surface should be cleaned appropriately before use
* the children should be supervised and discouraged from sneezing or coughing over the activity
* Children or staff returning from some periods of illness may not be able to bake - please see the Nursery Manager for more information
* Good hygiene practices should be encouraged throughout the activity, e.g. washing your hands after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.

**Food preparation and handling**

* wash hands thoroughly prior to handling food
* areas where food is to be placed should be kept clear and cleaned prior to food being placed on them
* chopping boards should be washed after use and replaced frequently
* all staff handling food must ensure that they are following personal hygiene procedures
* aprons must be worn, hands washed thoroughly when handling food
* staff are encouraged to eat & socialise at meal times – water may be drunk freely
* any member of staff returning to work after a period of ill health may need to avoid preparing and serving food – this should be discussed with the Nursery Manager as appropriate

This policy was adopted on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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