

013 Health and Hygiene Policy

Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup promotes a healthy lifestyle and a high standard of hygiene in its day to day work with children and adults. This is achieved in the following ways:

Health

Parents are asked to inform the supervisor as soon as possible if their child is unwell. The child will be marked as absent on the register and an absence log will be completed for any child in receipt of the Early Years Funding.

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they have any infection, and to inform the pre-school as to the nature of the infection. This will allow the pre-school to alert other parents as necessary and to make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. If the children of Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup staff are unwell, the children will not accompany their parents/carers to work in the pre-school.

Where possible, Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup will place a notice on the board for parents notifying them of current illnesses that have been reported in the setting.

Exclusion Procedure for Illness/Communicable Disease

Infection in a pre-school can spread rapidly not only amongst children but also staff. Parents are required to keep their children at home if they have any infection and to inform the pre-school supervisor as to the nature of the infection to enable other parents to be alerted.

Any child who is obviously unwell on arrival at pre-school will not be accepted.

If your child becomes unwell during the course of the session – has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach - you will be contacted and, if necessary, asked to collect. If we are unable to contact you personally we will telephone the other numbers that you have given us as alternatives. It is therefore essential that emergency contact numbers are kept up to date.

A member of staff will stay with the child and keep the child as comfortable as possible until somebody is able to collect them. If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with tepid water, but kept away from draughts. Temperature is taken using a fever scan or tympanic thermometer kept in the lockable cupboard. In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.

The following procedures and exclusion periods are taken from the Guidance Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities published by Public Health England. A copy of this document can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

The following procedures and exclusion periods must be adhered to:

Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup - policy

Chicken Pox: 5 days from the onset of rash. All spots must be dry and scabbed over before children return.

Flu/influenza: Until child has recovered.

Gastric Upsets: Children must be excluded from the pre-School for 48 hours after the last attack of diarrhoea or sickness.

German Measles(Rubella)*: 4 days from onset of rash

Impetigo: Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment

Impetigo: Until lesions are crusted /healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment

Measles*: 4 days from the onset of rash.

Meningococcal meningitis*/ septicaemia*: Until recovered

Meningitis* due to other bacteria: Until recovered

Meningitis viral*: None

Mumps*: 5 days after the onset of swelling.

Scarlet fever*: 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

Verrucae: Children do not need to be excluded, but the verruca must be covered with a rubber sock, waterproof plaster or clear nail varnish when the foot is going to become wet or damp.

Whooping Cough*: 2 days after starting antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

Nits and head lice: Children do not need to be excluded, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared. All parents to be informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

*indicates a notifiable disease

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Control of disease) Act 1984 and The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to the 'proper officer' at their local council or local health protection team (HPT).
- When the group becomes aware, or is formally informed of a notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the HPT.

Information Sources

Parents will have the opportunity to discuss health issues with Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup staff and will have access to information available to Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup.

Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup will maintain links with health visitors and gather health information and advice from the local health authority information services and/or other health agencies.

Hygiene

Hygiene rules related to body fluids are followed with particular care and all staff and volunteers are made aware of how infections, including HIV infection, can be transmitted. Cuts or open sores, whether on adults or children, will be covered with sticking plaster or other dressing.

Hand washing

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Both staff and children wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals.

At Forest school and Woodland adventure the children use wet wipes to clean their hands, staff will support younger children to do this. If a child's hands have come into contact with faeces then clean water will be poured over them before wiping again.

Coughing and sneezing

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. Hands must be washed after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves must be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy changing). Disposable plastic aprons are available for staff use if required.

Cleaning of the environment

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment, should be frequent and thorough. See our 006 GEP cleaning schedule. In the event of an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting then we will increase the frequency of cleaning and suspend activities such as sand/water play, cookery and use of soft toys

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately (always wear PPE). When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per manufacturer's instructions and ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard waste as described below.

Laundry

Spare clothing, including pants, is available in case of accidents. Children's soiled clothing should be bagged to go home, never rinsed by hand.

Any items of GEP soft furnishings or fabrics such as rugs or cushions should be taken home and washed at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate. Wear PPE when handling soiled items.

Waste

Used nappies, gloves, aprons and materials used to clean up a spillage should be placed in a disposable bag and put in a foot-operated bin. At the end of the session this bin will be emptied into the large bin on pavilion car park.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids.

Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sludging clothing after changing.

Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.

Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using a spill pack. Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Further guidance

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities (2017)

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2014)

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: links to other useful resources (2014)

Documentation

This policy is part of our health policies and procedures and should be read in conjunction with:

009 GEP Administering medicines

010 GEP Animals in setting

011 GEP First aid

012 GEP Food and drink

014 GEP Managing allergies

015 GEP Nappy changing

016 GEP Sun protection

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup:

Held on:

Date to be reviewed:

Signed on behalf of the committee:

Name of signatory:

Role of signatory:

All staff members and committee members will sign to indicate they have read, understood and agreed with the above policy.