



INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Young children, under the age of 6, are often highly susceptible to infectious diseases because their immunity may not be fully developed. Their close contact in care and play situations, coupled with their inexperience in practising good hygiene, makes it easy for germs to spread. In addition, pre-school children lack prior exposure to most germs, this lack of immunity means they can contact and transmit infections, resulting in the rapid spread of infection.

- The basis of infection control in Ferryfield is the implementation of basic precautions, underpinned by an understanding of how germs are transmitted.
- Staff will be made aware of and be expected to adhere to the policies and procedures.
- The Manager will report notifiable outbreaks of infection to the Health Protection Team at:
NHS Fife Tel: 01592 226435 Tel: 01383 623623 (Out of Hours)
Fax: 01592 226925 E-mail: hpt.fife@nhs.net
- And Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) at:
Quadrant House, 11 Riverside Drive
Dundee, DD1 4NY
Telephone: 0845 600 9527
Email: enquiries@careinspectorate.com
- Children or adults suffering from a contagious disease will be excluded from Ferryfield. The exclusion period will take regard of medical guidance for the diagnosed illness; we will also adhere to the advice of the child's / adult's doctor.
- Ferryfield will provide a healthy and hygienic environment for children and will endeavour to minimise the risk of infection by endorsing basic hygiene procedures based upon a 'common sense' understanding of how germs are transmitted.
- If a child becomes unwell during the session they will be taken to a quiet area away from others. The child will be closely monitored at this time. The child's parent / carer or emergency contact will be notified in the event of a child feeling unwell or is taken ill and they will be asked to collect their child.
- The types of infections that should be reported to other parents would be head lice, measles, chicken pox, mumps, scabies, meningitis and whooping cough.
- The anonymity of children and / or staff involved will be maintained.

Hand Washing

Hand washing, with soap and warm, running water, is the most important public health measure of all time. Effective hand washing is the basis of infection control for most germs amongst children and adults in Ferryfield, regardless of the way germs are transmitted.

- Hands will be washed, by both children and adults, after using the toilet and before and after handling food.
- Children will always be shown how to wash their hands, then the children that need it will continue to be assisted with hand washing, others will be reminded to wash their hands at appropriate times.
- We will provide running water, liquid soap and paper towels in the bathroom area.

Illness

On occasions there will be instances where children and / or adults should be excluded from Ferryfield, both for their own well-being and the well being of the other children and adults in the group.

- Children or adults should not attend Ferryfield if they are suffering from any infectious or contagious disorders. This would include, but is not limited to, diarrhoea, fever, prolonged coughing spells, conjunctivitis, whooping cough, mumps, measles, chicken pox, impetigo, german measles.
- If a child contracts an infectious illness their parent / carer should inform staff as soon as possible, to enable precautions regarding cross-contamination to take place.

Food Handling and Storage

It is essential, for food safety, to have systems and procedures in place to prevent cross contamination, to ensure foods are cooked correctly and they are stored at the correct temperatures.

- All staff members will be offered the opportunity to attend Basic Food Hygiene courses and to attend Refresher courses as they are required.
- All surfaces and equipment will be kept clean and in good working order.
- Cooking times will be strictly adhered to, to ensure food is thoroughly cooked.
- Parent / carers will be informed that children cannot be provided with food that needs to be re-heated.
- Only eggs bearing the lion mark will be purchased for use in Ferryfield.
- All items for human consumption will have their Best Before / Use By dates recorded and any food that is out with these dates will be thrown out.
- All fridges and freezers in Playgroup will have their temperatures taken and recorded each morning and any issues arising will be dealt with immediately.
- Any food that is intended for a child that has an allergy will be kept in a separate storage area and/or a separate fridge (depending on the storage requirements) to prevent cross-contamination.
- Any food that is destined for play and not to be eaten will be labelled 'not for human consumption' and stored separately in order to prevent mistakes.

Cleaning and Disinfection of the Environment

Good housekeeping, including vacuuming, damp dusting and washing is essential in the prevention of the spread of infection.

- Surfaces in the toilet and bathroom, such as flush handles, taps, toilet seats and door handles are timetabled to be cleaned at least twice a day.
- Tables and play surfaces should be cleaned at least once a day.
- Floors are timetabled to be cleaned daily.
- Equipment within the playroom will be cleaned regularly.
- Home-made playdough will be changed at regular intervals, earlier if it becomes contaminated.
- Sand will be changed at regular intervals and will be checked regularly for contaminants, sand that falls on the floor will be disposed of.

Hygiene and Disposal of Nappies

It is essential that children's nappies are changed and disposed of hygienically, given that their contents may be infectious, potentially transmitting several diseases.

- Children will be changed in the toilet area, keeping it as private as possible.
- All the equipment for nappy changing will be kept in this area.
- A designated nappy bin is kept in this area for the disposal of contaminated waste.
- The area will be cleaned after each nappy change.
- Staff will wear PPE (disposable aprons and gloves) when dealing with nappies.

Contact with Animals

Contact with animals presents children with a real risk of acquiring infections such as E.coli, campylobacter, salmonella and cryptosporidium, which can cause severe diarrhoeal illnesses and in rare cases can result in the death of a child.

- Special care will be taken with the hand hygiene of children and adults when they have been touching animals.
- Children's allergies will be considered before animals are brought into Ferryfield.
- Children will be supervised at all times when handling animals, they will be discouraged from kissing animals or allowing animals to lick their faces.

HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection are spread by direct contact with an infected person's blood or certain body fluids. These infections are **not** spread by normal daily contact and activities, eg. Coughing, sneezing, kissing, hugging, holding hands, sharing toilets or food, cups, cutlery or crockery and so people with these life-long diseases can be in Playgroup without fear of others being contaminated.

- In Ferryfield each child has their own designated toothbrush to help prevent the spread of these diseases, if a toothbrush is accidentally used by another child it will be disposed of.
- Children are not expected to share cups, plates, cutlery etc. These are expected to be used once and then washed.
- Any toys that are seen to be put into a child's mouth are removed to be washed before being played with by another child.
- All cuts will be covered with a suitable dressing.
- PPE will be worn when contact with bodily fluids is anticipated.

Adopted by the Committee

Date

February 2016