



Inspiring and nurturing young minds

Pre-School for 2-5 year olds

*Guidance for
Practitioners,
Volunteers and Work
Experience Students –
Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

Little Companions Pre-School
Acorn Hall, Columbia Avenue, Eastcote. HA4 8UG
• Mobile: 07586 291 510
• Email: info@littlecompanions.org.uk
• Website: www.littlecompanions.org.uk

Little Companions continues to ensure the work place is a safe space for all those working and engaging with the children. Staff's health and emotional well-being is of utmost importance.

As well as guidance linked to safeguarding and child protection (please refer updated policy) there are some practical changes within the daily routine. Please note this guidance is to be shared with any temporary staff or work experience students.

Please only come to work if symptom free and feeling well. Please ensure the guidance from the NHS is implemented when isolation is necessary.

Following changes to living with Covid post April 2022, our guidance has been updated.

For over 18s, if anyone has tested positive for Covid-19, please try and stay at home and avoid contact with others for 5 days whereby the virus is most infectious.

If you are UNDER 18, and have a confirmed positive test, if after 3 days they feel well with no temperature, the risk of passing the infection falls and they are able to return to their normal activities.

Please note there are now no requirements for Contact Tracing

Please see the below link for further details about isolation and updated symptom list.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Hygiene

- Please wash your hands upon arrival and frequently within the daily routine.
- All surfaces, door handles, light switches and other high traffic surfaces are cleaned upon arrival and at the end of day as well as tidy up times.
- Resources are cleaned regularly- indoors and outdoors.
- Gloves are worn for preparation of snack, nappy changing and cleaning.
- Any dishes used are washed before and after use and put away in the appropriate space by the end of the day. Where able to please bring own water bottles and No sharing of utensils or crockery.
- No visitors/ parents enter the premises unless prior arrangement and the hand washing procedure is followed suitably.
- Please remember guidance for catching coughs and sneezes, and immediate disposing of any tissues which may be used.

Ventilation

- All areas of the preschool should be suitably ventilated.
- Doors all open of the office and kitchen at all times.
- Please be sensible with no more than one or maximum two people at a time in the kitchen or office with appropriate ventilation.
- If staff meetings can be held remotely then we will work towards this, however this may not always be the case and then the risks will be managed with meeting held in open spaces, and social distance spacing in the layout and maximum ventilation.

Responding to a suspected case (or outbreak)

- In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the setting, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance.
- Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they should be isolated from others in a previously identified room or area. If possible, a window should be opened for ventilation.
- The staff member responsible for the child during this period will be the main staff member engaging with the child at the time. We may consider suitable PPE for this staff member (mask and gloves will be available).
- The area should be thoroughly cleaned, immediately if the area cannot be left unvisited, and if the area can be left unvisited then cleaned after 72 hours.
- The person responsible for cleaning the area should wear appropriate PPE.
- In the event of a staff member developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst working at the nursery, they should return home immediately and follow current NHS guidance
- For outbreaks of a significant number of infections at the setting guidance will be sought appropriately.

Supporting children's behaviour

As we welcome the return of children onsite, Little Companions' practitioners are very aware and sensitive to certain changes that little ones may display in their behaviour after this extended absence. We will take time to re-observe and support children to transition back into their learning environment. Certain changes which may be expected are:

- Worries and anxieties especially for the older cohort who maybe more aware of present situation
- Feeling upset disproportion to a reaction at preschool.
- Having attachment to an item of comfort, practitioner.
- Needing to resettle into the setting (in this case we will work in accordance with our settling policy to gradually resettle).
- Feeling angry or frustrated and unable to express these emotions resulting in behavioural changes amongst peers and daily engagement.
- Using sustained shared thinking to observe language that children may use in play to reflect their feelings or emotions at this time.

We will support children to ease back, creating comfort spaces to think about feelings, using resources such as feeling charts and books, using calming down strategies, such as calming down baskets, and quiet spaces. If needed one-to-one time, physical comfort with hygiene practices in place when needed. We will work in partnership with parents to share strategies for this. If further support is required, we will have access to Hillingdon Early years and Inclusion advisory team and we will use this support with consent of parents/guardians.

Staff induction

This policy will be included in any new staff/ work experience/ volunteer induction.

Any concerns – Naazish and Reema maintain an open-door policy. Please do speak to us if any concerns or worries arise. Please do speak to us should this need arise. If you or any member of your household is shielding in clinically vulnerable situations, please do inform us so any suitable support can be offered.

Please note this policy remains subject to change as Government guidance evolves. Any changes will be made accordingly and communicated with staff as soon as implementation is required.