



Inspiring and nurturing young minds

Pre-School for 2-5 year olds

*Guidance for
Parents/carers for the
return of Children to
Little Companions –
Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

Little Companions Pre-School
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Upon guidance from the government, Public Health England, Little Companions Pre-school will return onsite to welcome children to their pre-school environment. Please note the following procedures to ensure the setting is following appropriate protocols for a safe learning environment for both practitioners and children alike. All guidance is aligned with Public Health England advice and please also note that this is an evolving policy and will be updated should guidance change. **Please also note Little Companions will only open with guidance and instruction and if scientific data guidelines from Public Health changes stance on opening, then we will remain closed onsite.**

Attendance: ONLY children who are symptom free and feeling well should attend pre-school.

Please note that if a parent or any member of the household is displaying symptoms of covid-19 / Isolation guidance must be followed please refer to NHS guidance for the appropriate up to date protocol.

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 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 symptoms.

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

If your child or a member of the household displays symptoms, they are eligible for testing. Parents can contact NHS 111 to make arrangements for this. The pre-school must be informed of any confirmed outcomes.

Daily Hygiene

- Children will wash their hands upon arrival and at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- Children should limit any items for show and tell from home to one item which will be cleaned upon arrival.
- Lunch boxes and water bottles will have their surface cleaned upon arrival.
- All children will require a named water bottle. If children do not bring one, practitioners will ensure suitable water breaks are held throughout the day using cups from the setting which have been thoroughly cleaned. No cups will be left out in free flow and these will be guided breaks.
- Children will have access to tissues as well as bins accessible for disposal. Hands will be washed after wiping noses.
- Children will be engaged in varied activities to promote effective hand washing, catching their cough and sneeze as well as wiping their noses. We request parents continue role modelling these practices at home.

- In outdoor play, children will have access to running water and anti-bacterial soap for handwashing.
- Practitioners will continue to wear appropriate protective clothing when changing nappies, preparing food and cleaning in the setting.
- The setting and resources are cleaned daily and frequently, aligned with normal procedures, focussing on surfaces particularly those touched.
- Deep cleaning will be carried out weekly and even more in depth in each holiday period.

Ventilation

Overall young children under 10 remain the low risk category for Covid-19, however within reason we will work to ensure there is movements in engagement in the day to avoid crowded interactions with suitable ventilation

- Children will do structured activities in small groups where they space out across the table.
- The layout of the setting will ensure there is sufficient space for the children to keep moving and playing within a reasonable space.
- Little Companions has an outdoor learning ethos and this will be implemented for longer periods in the day if not the majority of the day with free flow indoor and outdoor for ventilation
- Children will be given comfort when necessary as this is crucial to Early years development however with regular hand washing, we will ensure that the risk is managed as best as possible.
- Children will be in small groups on the lunch table.
- Practitioners will role model positive practices of hygiene and ventilation in their daily interactions to support children in their understanding.
- Whilst indoors the main hall will be suitably ventilated at all times.

VISITS

- We will host visits at the setting and stay and play sessions, with appropriate ventilation
- We request anyone who attends are feeling well and not displaying any Covid-19 symptoms

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.

Responding to a suspected case

- 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 isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance.

Any concerns – Naazish and Reema maintain an open-door policy. Please do speak to us if any concerns or worries arise via phone or email. Face to face outdoor meetings can be arranged if required.

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.