



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

Policy Statement

We are committed to protect all employees, parents and children from coming into contact with Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The preschool follows all guidance issued by Essex County Council and the Department for Education (DfE).

Layer Preschool will continue to provide quality care for all children entrusted in our care and continue to be a fun place of learning for all children.

Unwell Children or Parents

We ask that if your child is unwell enough to need Calpol, they are kept at home and do not come to preschool. If your child is prescribed antibiotics, please discuss with us immediately so that we can decide if your child can attend the setting which will be 48 hours after they commenced treatment.

If any child or parent has any symptoms of COVID-19 :

- New continuous cough

- High temperature

- Loss of taste and/or loss of sense of smell

They must not attend the setting and must arrange a PCR test and self isolate whilst awaiting the result. Upon notification of a negative result, they may attend the setting as long as they are well enough to do so.

If any child or parent tests positive on a LFT (lateral flow test) they must not attend the setting and must arrange a PCR test and self isolate whilst awaiting the result. Upon notification of a negative PCR result, they may attend the setting as long as they are well enough to do so.

Positive results must be reported to Preschool as soon as possible and the Office Manager will follow current guidance regarding notifying the DfE, Ofsted and other parents.

If a child becomes unwell with any symptom of COVID-19 at preschool, no matter how mild, we will telephone the parent requesting they collect them as soon as possible. If staff are required to have close contact with the child, they will wear PPE. The child will need to have a PCR test before being able to return to the setting.

Unwell staff

Any employee with symptoms of COVID-19 will inform the manager. They must not attend the setting and must arrange a PCR test and self isolate whilst awaiting the result. In the event of a negative test result, and the employee being well enough to work, the employee will return to work straight away. In the event of a positive test result, they will inform the manager immediately and the Office Manager will follow current guidelines.

Any significant reduction in employees resulting in disruption to services we can offer will be notified to parents as soon as possible.

Close Contacts of Someone with a Positive PCR Test

If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test, the rest of the household does not currently need to self isolate if they are under the age of 18 or over the age of 18 and have been fully vaccinated.

If a child has a sibling or parent with COVID-19 in their household, it is advised they also have a PCR test to check if they are positive. They can continue to attend preschool providing they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. We would ask parents to consider if it is necessary for the child to attend whilst members of their household are ill with COVID-19 to prevent any infection spreading.

If a member of staff has a partner or dependant who tests positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test, they should stay at home and arrange for themselves to have a PCR test. Upon receiving a negative result, they will return to work as soon as possible. Refer to Staff Absence policy for time off for caring for dependents.

Drop off and Collection

We request if parents could keep the number of parents with children to 5 in the lobby area to ensure everyone has space and the children can freely enter but are clearly visible to staff. Parents are not required to wear facemasks but can do so if they wish.

Hygiene – Control Measures

Employees are advised to practice good hygiene and cleanliness standards.

Employees wash their hands upon arrival at the setting and regularly throughout the day. Children wash their hands or use alcohol based hand sanitiser whilst supervised on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, when coming in from playing outside and at regular intervals throughout the day.

Snuffle Station is in setting with tissues, lidded bin, picture signage and hand sanitiser.

Windows are open every day to ensure ventilation.

Personal protective equipment is available to employees should they feel the need to wear it, particularly if a child shows symptoms at the setting. This includes disposable apron, disposable gloves, face masks and face shield.

Frequently touched areas, tables and chairs, full toilets, main door and toilet door handles are cleaned throughout the day and every day.

All toys used in a week are cleaned on rotation using the dishwasher, Milton and other antibacterial cleaners. Including outside toys, especially handles.

Soft furnishings and mats are sprayed with Dettol aerosol daily.

Pack away at the end of the day takes longer than usual due to cleaning of all surfaces and will begin earlier. Children are engaged in group activities by 2 members of staff whilst the other staff clean and pack away the equipment.

Toys or comforters/blankets should not be brought into preschool from home to avoid cross contamination unless absolutely necessary to the wellbeing of your child. If so, they must be washed daily please.

New Starters

We continue to welcome new children to the setting and settling in sessions are booked in advance by the Office Manager. Parents and children will be asked to sanitise their hands on arrival.

Asymptomatic Testing – Lateral Flow Tests

Staff will undertake lateral flow tests (LFT) at home, on a voluntary basis. A positive LFT will require a follow up PCR whilst the member of staff isolates awaiting the result.

Parents may be undertaking similar testing for their work, they are not required to isolate whilst taking a LFT but if they get a positive result must isolate and arrange a PCR test.

Early years age children are not currently required by Essex County Council guidelines to carry out regular asymptomatic testing.

Ofsted

The preschool is required to notify Ofsted of any positive cases whether a child or member of staff. The Office Manager will report to the Committee Chairperson to do this.

Staff Conduct

All members of staff are expected to follow all current Government guidelines and rules and conduct their behaviour outside of the setting in line with current rules.

Outbreak Management Plan

The Preschool Manager, Office Manager and Chairperson will act as required in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 within the setting.

Generally, an outbreak will be if 5 children or staff test positive within a 10 day period. The preschool will obtain advice from Public Health England by telephoning the DfE Helpline 0800 046 8687 option 1.

In the event of an outbreak, various measures may be stepped up for example, but not limited to, daily dishwashing of toys, wearing face coverings, increasing frequency of LFT testing for staff, requesting parents and children undertake regular LFT testing, removal of some toys/resources that cannot be easily cleaned every day, distancing required at drop off and collection.

In the event childcare ratios cannot be met due to staff being ill, the setting may need to close and this would be communicated to parents as soon as possible.