



Mama Bear's Day Nursery Ltd.
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18th July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

COVID-19 An Overview of our Return to Nursery Policy

Our plans for August and beyond, including changes effective 20th July 2020

In line with Government Guidance and subject to having available staff, we are planning to re-open all nurseries to all children effective 3rd August 2020.

The Nursery Manager will revert all children to their original booking pattern prior to the Covid-19 Lockdown and all charges will apply. The exception being if the nursery is unable to offer a place due to staffing.

If parents / carers would like to request a permanent change to their pre-existing booking pattern they should do so to their Nursery Manager and they will check availability.

- Vulnerable children continue to be expected and encouraged to attend nursery
- Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions and who have been advised to shield should not attend nursery
- A child who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend
- Staff and children should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household
- Where children attend more than one early years setting, including a childminder, parents should choose only one provider to send their child to during this time as not to mix with two groups of children
- Protective measures will be put in place for staff and children, as far as is possible to ensure the risk of transmission is reduced.

Please note that all information given in this letter and associated policy is subject to change, at short notice, as official guidance is issued. We are using our best endeavours to deliver a safe and reliable service under the current circumstances.

In line with Government Guidance you must not attend nursery if you, your child or a member of your household has symptoms of Coronavirus. You must self-isolate in line with Government Guidelines.

The information below is a summary of our policy: *409a - Covid 19 Return to Nursery Policy* which is available to be read or downloaded from our website www.mamabear.co.uk

How we will keep children, parents and staff safe

The latest scientific advice

In making the decision to re-open we are being guided by official advice. The latest scientific advice from the government to Early Years Providers is that:

- there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus
- limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission
- schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put measures in place to reduce risks

The Government advises:

- limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children (such as smaller class sizes with children and staff spread out more)
- additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

In addition to the above we have been guided by the Department for Education, Local Authorities, OFSTED and other research.

Our guiding principles as we plan to re-open are:

- Safety of children and staff as well as wider families
- Children's emotional well-being
- Re-building of social networks
- Support through any bereavement that families may have experienced
- Beginning to assess learning and start the learning process again

It is recognised that children of nursery age are not able to effectively social distance and staff cannot practically implement social distancing with the children. Therefore the measures below have been put into place in accordance with Government and DfE guidance.

Basic Principles to keep children safe:

- Anybody with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend nursery for any reason
- Parents must notify us as normal if their child is unable to attend due to illness
- During this time, our sick child and exclusion policy will be superseded by this policy and where children display a temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste and / or smell they will not be admitted for 14 days, unless they have been tested in which case they can return only after a negative test result and the test result must be provided to the nursery.

- The nursery, including fixed (eg outdoor) play equipment will be subject to an increased regime of cleaning and disinfecting
- All soft furnishings (mats, cushions, soft toys, etc will be removed; books and other resources will be restricted as per government guidance
- Tables will be cleaned before and after eating. Each table will be separately cleaned using disinfectant spray and disposable paper towels to prevent cross-contamination
- Children will not be permitted to bring in items from home, this includes bags and comforters. Nappies should be brought in their original plastic wrapping and these will be cleaned prior to storing at nursery
- We will not be providing daily feedback sheets or nursery to home books during this time.

Handwashing and use of toilets

- Children will use antibacterial gel on entering the building to sanitise their hands. They will wash their hands at regular intervals during the day, particularly when coming in from outside, before and after eating and using the toilets.
- Children will use toilets one at a time.
- Toilet areas will be cleaned frequently throughout the day in accordance with government guidance

Safety on site – Important rules for Parents / Carers

In addition to the measures set out above, the following will apply:

- Parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter the building – staff will collect your child from the nursery door and will bring them to you at the end of their session when you arrive to collect
- One parent / carer only should be present when dropping-off and collecting your child
- **When dropping-off and collecting your child the parent / carer must wear a face mask.** This can be of cloth or paper design
- Staff will also wear a face mask when receiving and returning your child – but staff are not required to otherwise wear face masks during the day
- Based on current guidance we will not permit children of any age to wear face masks in the nursery. If a child is brought to nursery wearing a face mask we will ask the parent / carer to remove it
- We ask you to follow social distancing when waiting to drop off or collect your child, in the car park or otherwise on site and not to form clusters at the entrance / walkways etc.
- Children who attend more than one early years setting – including a childminder may only attend one setting during this time so parents must choose which provider to use and ensure children are not attending more than one
- All communication with the Nursery Office / Management should be undertaken remotely - eg via email, EYLog or telephone
- Parents are asked not to linger before or after drop-off and collection but to leave the site promptly

Children or staff displaying symptoms

The guidance around this is clear. **YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO NURSERY IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOU, OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD, IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS.**

If a child (or adult) attending nursery appears to be unwell with either a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and / or loss of taste and / or smell the following process will be followed:

- A senior member of staff will be called for
- A thermometer will be used to check for a raised temperature
- If it confirmed that the child's temperature is raised, the cough is persistent, or the child claims to have loss of taste or smell then parents will be called to come and collect their child – all children must be collected within 1 hour after being asked to collect
- Children who attend nursery and are displaying symptoms will be eligible for testing from 1st June. Tests can only be booked by the parents / main carers. The child will be unable to return to the setting until a negative test has been received or the required isolation period of 14 days has elapsed
- For tests for children under the age of 5 years parents should call 111 to arrange
- If the test is negative, the child can return to nursery, however we require confirmation that the test result is negative
- If the test is positive then we will inform Public Health England, OFSTED and the Local Authority and follow the advice of Public Health England
- Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate unless the child develops symptoms

If there are aspects which need further clarification, please do contact me by email, detailing your child's name and the nursery they attend. Contact details are below.

Kind Regards:

Kerry

Kerry Sturmeay

Operations Director

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