

Mama Bear's Day Nursery			POLICY No: 05-409a
Covid-19 – Return to Nursery Policy Last updated 11/09/2020			

This policy has been prepared in accordance with Government Guidelines as detailed below as well as information sent out by Local Authorities:

1. *Our plan to rebuild – the Government's Covid-19 strategy*
2. *COVID-19 – implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings*
3. *Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak*
4. *COVID-19 – cleaning of non health care settings*
5. *Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of PPE*
6. *Ofsted – Covid-19 rolling update*

This policy applies to all Mama Bears Staff, Children and Families. This is a working document and updates will be added as statutory guidance is updated.

All staff must read and sign a copy of this policy and it should be made available to all parents.

Parents and carers must follow this policy, failure to do so may result in their child not being able to attend as these procedures have been put in place to safeguard all children, staff and families attending.

This policy has been adopted for the period of the Covid-19 outbreak and in supporting children to return to nursery and to continue to attend in a safe way. Any updates will be added as they occur. It is the Managers responsibility of each setting to ensure that all staff read and fully understand the content of the policy and that this is signed by all staff. Where there are any Manager changes the new manager must ensure their staff team fully understand and adhere to this policy and provide any further training around this if needed.

Commencing from 1st June 2020 and for the period of the COVID-19 outbreak and until otherwise communicated, this policy will over-ride any existing policies where information is different to that contained within this policy.

In addition to this policy all settings must complete a risk assessment specific to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Nursery Manger is responsible for completing the risk assessment and ensuring all staff area ware of and fully understand its content. Where there are any Manager changes the new manager must ensure their staff team fully understand and adhere to this policy and provide any further training around this if needed.

In this Policy the terms 'Coronavirus' and 'COVID-19' are used interchangeably.

September 2020- Full Opening

In line with Government Guidance we are planning to open to all children effective of 1st September 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.

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- 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.

Further guidance on clinically extremely vulnerable groups can be found at: www.gov.uk

Please note, whilst our settings are open and staffed accordingly, there may be periods throughout the pandemic where settings may not be able to accept all children into Nursery, for example if we have staff awaiting Covid-19 tests or self-isolating ; meaning we would not be able to maintain staffing ratio requirements. We will always inform parents of any disruptions as soon as we are able, but this may not be possible until the actual day when we are unable to accept children.

Where we know this will impact a setting we will inform parents through Parentzone or by telephone call to advise of any disruption as early as possible.

Managing Risk and Transmission

Risk Assessment

Each setting must complete the COVID-19 Health and Safety Checklist and carry out a Risk Assessment addressing the risks associated with COVID-19, ensuring best endeavours are in place to control risks for children and staff. The Risk Assessment must cover all areas of this Policy, be setting specific and detailed and adhered to at all times.

Group Sizes and Availability

We know that unlike older children and adults, early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.

For children in nursery, the staff to child ratios within the Early Years Foundation Stage continue to apply.

We are also applying comprehensive infection control measures, and ensuring that symptomatic individuals do not attend settings, regular hand cleaning, respiratory hygiene and cleaning measures.

Attendance

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Anybody with any 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. (and symptoms do not continue to present)

All families attending must follow the Public Health England guidance on self-isolating if they or members of their household develop symptoms of coronavirus. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are a new, continuous cough, a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees) and / or a loss of taste and / or smell.

If staff or a member of their household present with the symptoms, they should self-isolate accordingly until they have been tested (more details on testing are further on in this policy).

For the period of the Covid-19 outbreak this means changes to our existing medication policy and means that any child or member of their household displaying the symptoms such as a high temperature and / or new consistent cough must self-isolate as per Government guidelines and must not attend nursery for this period (this policy will supersede our child sickness policy for the period of the Covid-19 outbreak).

We will also not admit any child who has taken medication such as calpol prior to the start of their session and we will not administer calpol for any purpose due to this masking any potential temperature.

The Department for Education (DfE) have launched a data collection process and all managers must ensure this information is collated and submitted as per the requirements of the relevant Local Authority and within the required time frames. This is to ensure the DfE has up to date information on available early years provision and to ensure providers are following the guidelines effectively for the children they can care for.

Transport

We are encouraging parents and children to walk or cycle to nursery where possible and to avoid using public transport at peak times.

Effective Infection Protection and Control

In Nursery settings, preventing the spread of COVID-19 involves dealing with direct transmissions (for instance when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions will be implemented to do this – these include:

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- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who someone in their household who does, do not attend nursery
- Cleaning hands more often than usual – washing hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly
- Increased use of hand gels – all persons must use hand gel on entering and leaving the nursery
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene – promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using antibacterial cleaners and disinfectants

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The scientific advice indicates that nursery staff do not require additional personal protective equipment above what is normally used throughout each day, although all staff must ensure increased hand washing, use of hand gel and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting routines within the nursery setting.

Facemasks will be worn by staff who are meeting and greeting parents at drop off and collection.

All parents / carers dropping off and collecting children will also be required to wear face masks which they should ensure they have and provide themselves – this is not required for children coming into the nursery.

All visitors to the nursery, including Head Office staff, Area Managers, the Maintenance Team and external contractors must wear a face mask when in settings where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Children attending nursery will not be permitted to wear facemasks in the Nursery at any time.

Children under the age of 2 should never wear a facemask.

Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons at meal times within the nursery.

Each setting will have a supply of full PPE, consisting of aprons, gloves, face masks and face shields for use should a child start to display symptoms of COVID-19 through the nursery session. In this circumstance the child will be taken into isolation with a staff member wearing the full PPE whilst they await collection.

Disposable gloves and aprons will be worn by all staff whilst changing children's nappies.

Group Sizes

Children of Nursery age cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff, however it is still important to reduce the contact between people as much as possible.

It may be necessary to bring small groups of children together at the beginning and end of each day.

Communicating our Operational Procedures

To help ensure that the risk of the virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, we must:

1. Tell children, parents, carers or any visitors such as suppliers not to enter the nursery if they are

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- displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus
2. Children should be brought to nursery and collected by one parent / carer only who must wear a face mask at drop off and collection
 3. Parents and carers will not be admitted into the nursery, staff will collect children from the door and sign them into the nursery and they will bring your child to the door at the end of their session
 4. We will temporarily not be providing nursery to home books or daily feedback sheets during this time, parents should regularly check parentzone for any updates or for sharing of key information
 5. Soft furnishings and soft toys will be removed from our environments
 6. Toys and equipment will be restricted to those that can be easily cleaned at the end of each session and throughout the day as required
 7. Cots and sleep mats should be moved as far as possible apart from each other
 8. Children will not be self-serving at meal times
 9. Parents should observe 2 metre social distancing guidelines when waiting outside the nursery to drop off or collect children
 10. Parents / carers are asked not to gather at nursery entrances and please wait in areas maintain a safe distance at busy times when dropping off and collecting children
 11. Parents and carers are asked to try to avoid using public transport at peak times and should follow all government guidance when using public transport
 12. Ensure group sizes reflect the number of staff
 13. Travel items such as car seats and buggies must not be left in the nursery buildings
 14. As far as is practical social distancing guidelines should be adopted

All settings Must have their own Risk Assessment in place to detail processes in place for their setting **this** should include how the above can be implemented within the nursery.

Staff working in nurseries must

1. Make sure anyone who is feeling ill stays at home
2. Ensure all staff and children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently
3. Ensure staff encourage children not to touch their faces
4. Encourage the use of tissues and ensure these are disposed of effectively
5. Implement enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures – to include cleaning of surfaces, door handles, toilet flushes and other high contact areas
6. Ensure staff have their own supply of stationary / allocated laptops etc and these need to be cleaned appropriately
7. The printer must be wiped with an antibacterial wipe after each use
8. Ensure toys and equipment used is cleaned / sterilised frequently
9. Ensure hand gel is used by all persons on entering and leaving the premises
10. You must inform all parents of the measures we are taking and ensure they are cooperative in

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implementing them

In observing social distancing as far as is practical in the settings the following can be implemented:

1. Moving tables further apart from each other
2. Minimise clustering of children such as for stories
3. Use the outdoor environment as much as possible
4. Staggering staff breaks

Operational Procedures – keeping everybody safe

Cleaning and Hygiene

- We are following the guidance in the Government publication 'cleaning of non-healthcare settings'. This guidance can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings

This guidance sets out our cleaning procedures as follows:

- cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
- wearing disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
- if an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

The infection risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) following contamination of the environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk. However, studies of other viruses in the same family suggest that, in most circumstances, the risk is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.

Cleaning and disinfection

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Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells

Use disposable cloths or paper roll to clean hard surfaces, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the options below:

- use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine

or

- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants

or

- If an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses

Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cleaning materials used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.

Laundry

- Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items.
- Do not shake dirty laundry, this minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

Waste

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues):

1. Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.

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2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
3. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

Waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. You should not put your waste in communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

- if the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste
- if the individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste

If storage for at least 72 hours is not appropriate, this waste should be double-bagged and disposed of in the Clinical Waste bin.

In addition to the above the following must also be adhered to

- Increased handwashing in place throughout the day for staff and children for at least 20 seconds
- Use of hand gel throughout the day and for all persons entering and leaving the nursery
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces and toys / equipment that staff and children come into contact with such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks, toilet areas, light switches and all other high traffic areas

- Regular cleaning is to be scheduled in line with the 'Daily Disinfectant Log of High Traffic Areas' form
- A new form [one single control copy per day] is to be produced and completed every day. This should be displayed in a prominent place where the Nursery / Duty Manager has oversight
- The Nursery / Duty Manager is responsible for printing out the 'Daily Disinfectant Log of High Traffic Areas' forms, staff tasked with cleaning duties must initial the form as disinfecting duties are completed, to record that these tasks have been done
- By midday of the following Monday the Nursery / Duty Manager must scan and email the week's forms to the Area Manager, cc the Compliance Manager

- Children should be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- Children will be provided with tissues for sneezing and will be encouraged to use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' message with bins being emptied frequently through the day
- All rooms should be well ventilated with windows and doors open and this should be reflected in the relevant settings risk assessment
- Internal doors should be where possible propped open where safe to do so to prevent touching of door handles and to aid ventilation (this must be referenced in the setting's risk assessment)
- There is no requirement for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in nursery

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Reducing Mixing of people within the Nursery

- Drop off and collection will be done at the nursery entrance, with parents not being permitted in the nursery
- Staff breaks – if using staff rooms then staff should adhere to the social distancing rules, and numbers of staff accessing such areas must be limited and nursery offices are not to be used for breaks and where possible, staff breaks should be staggered
- Use of communal internal spaces should be restricted as much as possible
- Staff shifts must be done on a monthly basis (not weekly) to ensure consistency of staff and staff groupings

Use of outdoor space

- The outdoor space should be used as much as possible whilst adhering to the grouping of children rules – different groups of children should not access the same area of outside spaces at the same time

Shared resources between home and setting

- The sharing of resources between the home and nursery will be temporarily suspended
- Children will not be permitted to bring in items from home such as toys, books, comforters
- We will not be completing nursery to home books / daily feedback sheets during this time
- Children should not bring in bags to nursery, any spare clothes can be supplied, and we will store and wash at nursery
- Nappies and wipes should be brought in their original packaging and the nursery will store these

What happens if someone becomes unwell within the Nursery?

If anyone becomes unwell in the nursery with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature and / or a loss of taste and / or smell they must be sent home immediately and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance – www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved to a room or area where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. Any windows must be open for ventilation and the staff member supervising the child must wear full PPE in the form of apron, gloves, face mask and face visor shield. If they need to visit the bathroom during this period the bathroom should be cleaned before being used by anyone else.

The child must be collected within an hour of being contacted by the Nursery.

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In an emergency – we should call 999 if we are seriously concerned about a child or feel that their life is at risk.

When the child is collected the parent should be advised to get the child tested and to notify you of the results.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they then develop symptoms themselves (in which case they should arrange to be tested) or the child subsequently tests positive (see below – ‘what happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting’). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with a normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms who has left the nursery / area will also reduce the risk of passing the infection onto other people.

System of Controls: Prevention:

We must minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household with symptoms do not attend our settings.

Ensuring that children, staff and other adults do not come into settings if they have coronavirus symptoms or who have tested positive in the last 10 days and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in settings and further drive down transmission of coronavirus. All settings must follow the below processes and ensure all staff are fully aware of these.

The symptoms of coronavirus are: (however mild)

- A high temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss in or change in normal sense of taste and/or smell (anosmia)

What happens if there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in the Nursery?

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with COVID-19 they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for the required period of time in line with government guidance (14 days). They will also have access to a test if they display symptoms and are encouraged to get tested.

For tests for children under the age of 5 years parents should call 111 to arrange.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to work or the setting and fellow household members can end their isolation. Providing they do not continue to display any of the symptoms and they are fit and well.

We require a copy of the negative test result to enable persons to return to the nursery.

An inconclusive Test Result

Where a test result is inconclusive the person can have a second test (but still not attend the setting until a negative result is obtained) or they should self-isolate for 14 days and not return to nursery until after this period.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Nursery?

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Where the child or staff member tests positive, The Operations Director must be informed immediately. We must also advise Public Health England, The Local Authority and OFSTED. We will follow all advise given by Public Health England.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise on the appropriate action to take.

If someone tests positive for coronavirus they must follow the covid-19 guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>) and should continue to self isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then only return to the setting only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss / change to taste and/or smell. This is because anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The at least 10 day period starts from the day they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self isolating for the full 14 days.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing for Covid-19 is now available for all nursery staff / children if they or someone in their household is displaying the symptoms of Covid-19 as in a high temperature and/or a new continuous cough.

To be eligible for a test you must:

- Have covid-19 symptoms and be in the first 3 days of the onset of the symptoms
- OR
- Be living in the same household as someone with covid-19 symptoms and therefore self-isolating for 14 days

If you are self-isolating for other reasons and are not symptomatic, for example, if you have an underlying health condition, you are not eligible for testing.

If a staff member or anyone in their household is experiencing any of the symptoms they must report this to their current line manager as soon as possible and should not attend work – they should initially follow the guidance on self-isolating. They must apply to be tested at the earliest opportunity through booking a test on the www.gov.uk website.

They must arrange to have a test during the first 3 days of the onset of the symptoms. Staff must attend for their test following the guidance they are given at the time of booking. They will receive the results within 48 hours and should remain in self isolation for the period up until results are provided.

If the test is negative then staff members can return to work safely. If it is positive they must remain in self-isolation and maintain contact with their line manager.

Managers working in settings must ensure they inform the Operations Director of any staff member or child who has had a test for Covid-19 and the results of that test.

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Engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process

Settings must ensure that staff members and parents / carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and children must not come into a setting if they are displaying symptoms and must be sent home if they develop them whilst in the setting
- Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace

If a staff member is contacted by the Test and Trace team and advised to self isolate they must inform their line Manager immediately, or the Operations Director.

The Operations Director must be informed of any staff member required to self isolate as advised by NHS Test and Trace.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Coronavirus Dis-applications

The full guidance can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2

Please do not print this guidance as it is updated frequently, and it is important you are looking at the most up to date information – this policy will be updated accordingly following any changes

The Government temporarily disapplied and modified certain elements of the EYFS Statutory Framework. These applied from 24th April 2020 – 25th September 2020.

Effective of 26th September 2020

1. All providers are required to reinstate all learning, development and assessment requirements of the EYFS effective of 26th September 2020.
2. There is a two month transitional period (**up until 25th November 2020**) for disapplications around staffing levels to continue to be in place in recognition that some providers may need some time to get back to full staffing levels once disapplications are lifted: these are as detailed below.

Ratio requirements will stay the same in the majority of cases but, during the Covid-19 outbreak, exceptions can be made to the qualifications that staff hold in order to be counted in the ratio requirements.

Providers should use reasonable endeavours to ensure that at least half of staff (excluding the manager) hold at least a full and relevant Level 2 qualification to meet the staff: child ratio requirements, but this will not be a legal requirement.

Ratio requirements will remain the same.

It is expected that all settings try to meet existing requirements for staff at level 2 as far as is possible. This change should only be applied where this cannot be met for example, due to staff absence due to the impacts of Covid-19 means that this is not possible.

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3. Paediatric First Aid Requirements – there is a two month transitional period (**up until 25th November 2020**) for disapplications around staff with Paediatric First Aid Training as detailed below:

The requirement for at least one person who has a full paediatric first aid certificate to be on the premises at all times when children are present remains in place where there are children below the age of 24 months attending. However if the setting only has children aged 2-5 years attending providers must use their best endeavours to ensure one person with a full PFA certificate is on site when children are present. If after using best endeavours they are still unable to secure a member of staff with full PFA to be on site then they must carry out a written risk assessment and ensure that someone with a current First Aid at Work or Emergency PFA certification is on site at all times children are on the premises.

All staff whose Paediatric First Aid certificate expired on or after 16th March 2020 must renew this by 25th November 2020

Any new staff joining the setting must attend Paediatric First Aid training by 25th November 2020.

Local or National Lockdowns -EYFS Disapplications

The EYFS Disapplications as detailed below may be reinstated between 26th September 2020 and 31st August 2021 if the ability of providers to comply with the EYFS is impacted by coronavirus related restrictions that have been imposed by the government.

This essentially means that if the government makes changes such as announcing a local or national lockdown, that prevent early years providers from adhering to normal EYFS requirements, the EYFS disapplications as detailed below that came into effect on April 24th 2020 will be reapplied.

In instances of local lockdown, providers don't need to be located in the geographical area where the restrictions are applied but the restrictions do need to prevent them from complying with the EYFS – for example, because the staff live in an area where the restrictions apply and are not able to get into work.

These can NOT be applied due to an individual setting having an incidence of Coronavirus but only under Government Guidance – known as a 'Period of Intervention'.

Learning and Development Requirements

The Change – during the Covid-19 outbreak early years providers should use reasonable endeavours to meet the existing learning and development requirements, instead of this being something they 'must do'.

This means that whilst providers should try and meet existing requirements as far as possible, it is recognised that these are extraordinary times and there may be occasions where it will not be possible to provide activities and experiences across all seven areas of learning for all children all of the time.

Assessment – Progress check at age 2

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The change – the progress check at age 2 will not need to be undertaken during the Covid-19 outbreak

This means, every effort should still be made to complete the progress check for children still attending but realise this may not be possible. Therefore these can be completed for ALL children (attending and non-attending) after the temporary measures are lifted.

However you still need to remain alert to any emerging concerns about a child in your care and endeavour to provide or seek additional support if needed.

Staff Qualifications and Ratios

The Change – ratio requirements stay the same in the majority of cases but, during the Covid-19 outbreak, exceptions can be made to the qualifications that staff hold in order to be counted in the ratio requirements.

Providers should use reasonable endeavours to ensure that at least half of staff (excluding the manager) hold at least a full and relevant Level 2 qualification to meet the staff: child ratio requirements, but this will not be a legal requirement.

Ratio requirements will remain the same.

It is expected that all settings try to meet existing requirements for staff at level 2 as far as is possible. This change should only be applied where this cannot be met for example, due to staff absence due to the impacts of Covid-19 means that this is not possible.

Paediatric First Aid

The change – the requirement for at least one person who has a full paediatric first aid certificate to be on the premises at all times when children are present remains in place where there are children below the age of 24 months attending. However if the setting only has children aged 2-5 years attending providers must use their best endeavours to ensure one person with a full PFA certificate is on site when children are present. If after using best endeavours they are still unable to secure a member of staff with full PFA to be on site then they must carry out a written risk assessment and ensure that someone with a current First Aid at Work or Emergency PFA certification is on site at all times children are on the premises.

Safeguarding and Welfare

All other aspects of the safeguarding and welfare section of the EYFS framework still apply, including requirements relating to child protection arrangements.

Settings must continue to have a designated safeguarding lead take responsibility for safeguarding.

Fire Drills and Emergency Evacuations

Normal Fire drill guidelines apply, however staff and children should vacate the building and meet at the designated Assembly point within their own groupings and should maintain social distancing rules from the

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other groups at the point of evacuation as well as whilst at the assemble point.

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