

Colyton Caterpillars Early Education



Risk assessment – COVID-19

Focus	Area of consideration	Recommendations
Children	Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend the setting
	Physical distancing/grouping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are usually organized into small groups or rooms within early years. Wherever possible these should be small groups. • Distancing of bed/cots should be facilitated wherever possible
	Wellbeing and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be supported in age appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe including regular hand washing and sneezing into a tissue • Children should be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of COVID-19 and staff need to ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time.
Workforce	Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should only attend the nursery if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or have received a negative test result. • Consideration should be given to limiting the number of staff in the nursery at any one time to only those required to care for the expected occupancy levels on any given day.
	Physical distancing/grouping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency revisions to the EYFS have been implemented which provides some flexibility on ratios and qualifications to make this feasible. • Social distancing must be maintained during breaks. This may be achieved through a range of strategies including the staggering of breaks and subdivision of spaces allocated to team breaks where possible. • Staff members should avoid physical contact with each other including handshakes/hugs. • Where possible, meetings and training sessions should be conducted through virtual conferencing.

	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff members must receive appropriate instruction and training in infection control and the standard operating procedure and risk assessments within which they will be operating.
Parents/carers	Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only parent/carers who are symptom free and/or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off/collect their child. Aim to limit the drop off and pick up to 1 parent/carer per family and stagger the timings where possible. Arrange drop off and pick up at the nursery entrance to avoid parent/carers entering the nursery unnecessarily. Where parent/carers are waiting to drop off/collect their child, physical distancing should be maintained in a safe area.
	Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/carers should receive clear information regarding the role they play in the safe operating procedure and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.
Visitors	Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance to the setting should be restricted to children and staff as far as practically possible and visitors should not be permitted to the nursery unless essential. (e.g. essential building maintenance). Where essential visits are required these should be made outside of the usual nursery operational hours where possible.
Travel	Travel associated with setting operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherever possible, staff and parent/carers should travel to the nursery alone, using their own transport. If public transport is necessary, current guidance on the use of public transport must be followed. Parent/carers should be encouraged to ensure they do not leave travel accessories including buggies, car seats, scooters or bikes in the setting premises, but rather in external buggy areas if necessary. Outings from the setting into the local community should be restricted unless the setting has no or very limited outside space in which case, outings to open spaces which do not include mixing with members of the general public could be considered.
	Hand washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and children must wash their hands upon arrival at the nursery.

Hygiene and Health and Safety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and staff members should be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.
	Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enhanced cleaning schedule must be implemented that includes furniture, surfaces and children’s toys and equipment. • Communal areas, touch points and hand washing facilities must be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
	Waste disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste must be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner. • Tissues must be immediately disposed of.
	Laundry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All items within the setting requiring laundering must be washed in line with NHS laundry guidelines • Items such as towels, flannels and bedding must not be shared by children.
	Risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An activity should be risk assessed and due consideration given to any adaptations to usual practice. It is expected that would include, but not limited, to the suspension of learning experiences involving materials which are not easily washable such as malleable materials and the suspension of the sharing of food/utensils.
	PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early years settings to protect against COVID-19 transmission. PPE should continue to be worn as normal for nappy changing and the administration of first aid.
Premises	Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where premises have been temporarily closed during lockdown period or where they may need to temporarily close during future lockdowns appropriate Health and Safety checks should be conducted prior to reopening including legionnaires checks. • Keep windows open where possible to ensure ventilation. • Avoid the use of lifts other than where absolutely essential.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should not be permitted to bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing. Where this is the case, items should be appropriately cleaned upon arrival. • All resources required for play and learning experiences of children should be regularly washed and/or sterilized.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment used by staff such as stationary, tablets ect. Should be allocated to individual staff members where possible and cleaned regularly.
Supplies	Procurement and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting should ensure an adequate supply of essential supplies and contingency plans are in place to minimize the impact of any shortages of supplies. The setting will not be able to operate without essential supplies required for ensuring infection control. • A monitoring system for the usage of PPE is essential to ensure that a supply of stock is available to all who require it and when required to meet the operational needs of the setting. Where stocks are low, other options may be considered, such as the use of washable tabards. These items will be washed at a high temperature and separate to any other nursery washing. • In the case that the supply of food is interrupted, procedures must be implemented to ensure the appropriate food alternatives are sources and normal food safety and hygiene processes are followed.
Responding to a suspected case		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 open for ventilation. • The staff member responsible for the child during this time should be a member of staff from their area. The provider may consider suitable PPE for this staff member. • 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.