

COVID-19 information and safety measures

Starting nursery can be a time of mixed emotions for parents and children alike and for many, the coronavirus pandemic has the potential to heighten this.

Kiddywinks we have put safety measures in place in order to make nursery a safe place for children, staff and parents. These measures may be inconvenient or frustrating at times but we would like to assure families that we are following government guidelines in order to keep everyone at nursery safe. We are checking for updates and keeping the measures under constant review so that we can ensure we are doing the right thing for everyone attending nursery.

We hope that these measures give you reassurance that we have made nursery a safe place for your child to be in, whilst maintaining the happy, fun, caring environment that they are used to. The safety measures will remain under review and may change at short notice based on guidance issued by the government.

What to expect when arranging a nursery tour with COVID-19 safety measures in place

We are happy to accept tour bookings during this time and would be delighted to show you around however things are a little different at the moment. During this time, we ask that only 1 parent or carer attends the setting to look around at one time. This will be booked on a weekend with no children at the setting present.

If you are able to leave your child with another carer during your visit this will help us to maintain our safety measures.

Upon booking your tour we will advise you that we will call you shortly before your scheduled tour to complete pre-screening questions. This is just to check that you or a household member are not currently feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of COVID-19. If you are unwell or suspect that you have been in close contact with somebody that is unwell, please rearrange your visit for a later date.

You will be asked to wear a face covering for the duration of your visit which we will provide or you are welcome to bring your own.

The manager will ask you to sign our visitor book in reception, before showing you to the nearest hand washing facility and commencing the tour.

What to expect when attending nursery settling in sessions with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

At the front door, the manager will ask you to sanitise your hands.

The manager will ask you to sign our visitor book in reception, before showing you to the nearest hand washing facility before commencing the settling session.

You will be able to stay with your child in the room during the settling session, and the staff team will enjoy finding out all about your child, their routines, their likes and dislikes and start getting to know them. On the second and third sessions, you may wish to step out of the room and leave the premises for a short while to let your child explore the room and get to know the staff in your absence. Don't worry! The team will fill you in on all the details when you come back into the room!

What to expect when attending regular nursery sessions with COVID-19 safety measures in place

The main operational change during this time is that children will be dropped off and collected from the front door. The staff member on duty will then take your child and their belongings to and from their room. There may be a delay while we do this and we understand this is frustrating but we kindly ask for your patience when waiting. Also we have been advised for parents and staff to wear masks at drop off and pickups.

We understand that this change has an impact on face to face communication with your child's key person. Please call or email as often as you like throughout the day to facilitate good communication about the care of your child while these measures remain in place.

Please ensure your child is wearing clean clothes every day, that any comforters are freshly laundered and any dummies and bottles are freshly sterilised before being brought into nursery.

Children are encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene throughout the day to help stop the spread of the virus. Our staff teams lead by example in hand hygiene and the children are remarkably thorough when encouraged.

We have also increased our cleaning regimes, especially for high traffic surfaces such as door plates, taps and toilet flushes. We have also increased the cleaning hours worked by our dedicated cleaning team every night.

Toys that have been handled by children during the day are sanitised before being used again.

Young children at nursery are not expected to socially distance from the other children or their staff carers in their bubble. Children will be able to play freely, cuddle, shout, sing, share resources and sit together with the staff and other children within their own rooms.

You may notice that some toys, equipment and resources have been temporarily removed in line with government guidance. This is based on the ability to effectively sanitise them after use.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the Nursery Manager or your child's key person.

Please note the following important information about preventing the spread of infection:

Children must not attend nursery if they or a member of their household display symptoms of COVID-19, specifically a new continuous cough, a temperature above 37.8 degrees, or where your child is able to describe this, loss of taste and/ or smell.

The symptomatic person must book a coronavirus test and notify the Nursery Manager of the result as soon as it is received.

If you have given your child medication to reduce a fever, regardless of what you suspect the cause of the fever to be they must not attend nursery, and you must contact the Nursery Manager to let them know. They will advise you on the next steps you should take.

If your child or a member of their household develops symptoms of COVID-19, specifically a new continuous cough, a temperature above 37.8 degrees, or where your child is able to describe the, loss of taste and/ or smell, you must notify the Nursery Manager without delay, even if it is a day when they are not due to attend nursery.

If your child or a member of their household has, or is suspected to have COVID-19, they must not return to nursery until the period of isolation is concluded and they and the person dropping them off and collecting them is free from symptoms.

If you become aware your child has been in contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 you must make the Nursery Manager aware without delay so that they can make an assessment of the circumstances surrounding the child's ability to attend my nursery setting.

If your child presents with symptoms of COVID-19 during their attendance at nursery, a staff member will isolate them from other children and, staff and remain with them to provide their care. You will receive a call, and must arrange to collect your child without delay.

If you or a member of your child's household develop symptoms of COVID-19 whilst your child is at nursery, you must notify the Nursery Manager without delay. A staff member will isolate with your child whilst we await their collection from nursery. The Nursery Manager will advise you on the collection procedure that will apply in this case.

If a member of your child's group or 'bubble' is confirmed as positive for coronavirus, your child will be required to complete a period of 14 days isolation. Your other household members do not need to self-isolate unless your child subsequently develops symptoms.