**Busy Bodies Child Care Centre Ltd**

**Infection Control Policy**

Generally, the main sources of infection are people, domestic animals, contaminated food and water. Certain areas where stagnant water and waste residues accumulate such as sinks, U-bends, toilets and wet clothes readily support the growth of germs and may also become a source of infection.

Infections can be transmitted in a variety of ways:

* Some can occur by direct contact with infected people, animals their blood and other body fluids e.g. blood spills during first aid.
* Some arise by self-infection from the bodies own germs e.g. bladder infections are commonly due to normal guy organisms invading the urinary tract.
* Gastrointestinal infections (tummy upsets) usually arise from consuming contaminated food or water, but sometimes results from germs being carried to the mouth on unwashed hands.
* Airborne transmission of infection occurs in two ways; either germs are carried on skin scales as they are shed from our bodies or by respiratory droplets expelled when we cough, sneeze or talk.
* Some infections are transmitted directly.
* Insects, other pests and pets can act as vehicles for transfer of infection.

The main principles for achieving high standards of infection control are concerned with;

* Reducing or eliminating sources of infection (e.g. by cooking contaminated raw foods properly and excluding infectious children from the childcare setting).
* Preventing transfer of contamination from these sources.
* Educating staff and children about good hygiene practices.

The purpose of applying a hygiene procedure is to reduce the number of germs to a level where there is no longer a threat to health. This level various depending on the circumstances and will dictate what procedures are required. A number of procedures can be used to achieve hygienic decontamination, including;

* Cleaning - in many instances e.g. for hand washing, cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery, decontamination can be achieved by using a cleaning product and water. Decontamination is only achieved if applied in conjunction with mechanical action (e.g. wiping or scrubbing) and a rinsing process. It is not usually an effective way to decontaminate fixed surfaces, such as kitchen worktops, because they cannot be effectively rinsed.
* Heat - heating is an effective method of decontaminating items such as clothes, cleaning utensils and fabrics. Heat is also used to reduce microbial contamination of foods to a level that is safe for consumption. Generally, the higher the temperature achieved the more germs are killed.
* Hygienic cleaners and chemical disinfectants - these can be used to effectively decontaminate sites and surfaces where the former methods are inadequate or impractical e.g to decontaminate work surfaces or toys, to decontaminate toilets or when there is infection in the childcare setting.

We help raise children’s awareness of good hygiene practices by teaching them about the importance of;

* Hand washing (see hand washing policy)
* Cleaning teeth
* Nose wiping and disposal of tissues
* The spread of infection through coughing and sneezing
* Using the toilet correctly.

To ensure staff are aware of and are are able to carry out good hygiene practices we;

* Include hygienic procedures in staff induction and training
* Display notices, posters, and use staff meetings to promote good hygiene practices.
* Display a list of notifiable diseases and make sure staff are familiar with local guidelines and procedures for notifying the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) of outbreaks of disease.
* Notify the CCDC should any notifiable disease occur in the setting.

**Procedure**

* Check the premises are clean and safe before the children arrive each day.
* Establish a daily cleaning routine for the premises, including play areas, toilets, kitchens and nappy changing areas.
* Establish a rota system for cleaning toys, furnishing, dressing up clothes, sand, water play area, ball pits and other equipment.
* Provide suitable hand washing and drying facilities.

**Outbreak Management**

Following exclusion times for illness and infections is vital part of outbreak management. Exclusion times for the common early childhood illnesses can be found on the Health and Safety Protection Agency Poster displayed in the staff toilet.

NHS Direct can also offer information on health.

We will not at any time be tempted to make a diagnoses ourselves and we will always refer to parents / carers and to their child's GP.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed annually.

Updated on ………………………………………….. By …………………………………………………………..

This policy has been read, understood and signed by all the staff.

Signed ………………………………………………….. Signed……………………………………………………….

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