

Little VIPs Infection Control Policy



Policy Statement

At Little VIPs Day Care we are committed to promoting the good health and wellbeing of all children, staff and visitors by maintaining high standards of hygiene and infection control. We recognise that effective infection prevention is essential to reduce the spread of illness and to protect the health of everyone within the setting.

We follow guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), including *Health protection in education and childcare settings*, alongside the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025).

Principles of Infection Control

We understand that infections can spread easily through respiratory droplets, direct contact and contaminated surfaces. We therefore take a proactive approach to minimise the risk of infection by promoting good hygiene practices, maintaining a clean environment and responding effectively to illness.

We work in partnership with parents to ensure that children who are unwell remain at home and that infection control procedures are consistently followed.

Hygiene Practices

At Little VIPs, staff support children in developing good hygiene habits and model best practice at all times. We encourage children to use tissues when coughing or sneezing and to dispose of them safely before washing their hands.

Handwashing is promoted throughout the day, including before eating, after using the toilet, after outdoor play and after contact with animals. Staff support children in understanding the importance of these routines.

Staff follow strict hand hygiene procedures and ensure that hands are washed thoroughly and regularly to prevent the spread of infection.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves and aprons, when carrying out tasks that involve contact with bodily fluids, including nappy changing, toileting and cleaning up spills.

PPE is disposed of safely after use, and hands are washed immediately to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

Cleaning and Hygiene of the Environment

We maintain a high standard of cleanliness throughout the nursery. All toys, equipment and resources are cleaned regularly using appropriate cleaning products and in line with a structured cleaning rota.

Items used by babies and toddlers, including those that may be mouthed, are cleaned and sterilised frequently. Potties, changing mats and bathroom facilities are cleaned and disinfected after each use or at regular intervals throughout the day.

Bedding is cleaned after use or regularly to maintain hygiene standards. Dummies are stored in individual, labelled containers to prevent cross-contamination, and any dropped items are cleaned immediately before reuse.

Regular deep cleaning of the nursery, including carpets and soft furnishings, is carried out, and this may be increased during periods of illness or outbreak.

Managing Illness and Preventing Spread

We follow our Sickness and Illness Policy and UKHSA guidance regarding exclusion periods for infectious diseases. Children, staff and visitors who are unwell or contagious must not attend the setting.

If a child becomes unwell during the day, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child promptly. The child will be cared for in a comfortable area while awaiting collection, and appropriate infection control measures will be followed.

Parents are informed of any contagious illnesses within the setting so they can monitor their child for symptoms.

Outbreak Management

In the event of an outbreak of an infectious illness, we will follow advice from the UK Health Security Agency and any relevant local health protection teams.

Additional cleaning procedures will be implemented, and infection control measures may be enhanced to reduce transmission. We will communicate clearly with parents and staff regarding any actions required.

Where necessary, we will notify Ofsted and other relevant authorities in line with statutory requirements.

Food Hygiene and Oral Health

We promote good food hygiene practices and ensure that all food is prepared and handled safely. Children are encouraged to follow hygiene routines before and after eating.

We also support children's oral health by promoting healthy eating and sharing guidance with parents.

Visitors and Environment

Parents, carers and visitors are expected to follow our infection control procedures while in the setting. This may include removing outdoor footwear or using protective coverings in areas where children are playing on the floor.

The nursery reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone who is unwell or may pose a risk to the health and safety of others.

Resources and Supplies

We ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials, tissues, handwashing facilities and PPE are available at all times. These supplies are monitored and replenished regularly, with increased provision during periods of higher illness, such as winter months.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for maintaining high standards of hygiene and infection control. Staff must not attend work if they are unwell or infectious and must follow all procedures to prevent the spread of infection.

Staff receive training in infection control practices and understand their role in keeping children safe and healthy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes. Practice is monitored through regular checks, cleaning schedules and staff supervision to ensure ongoing compliance.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
April 2026	Hayley Fassam – Nursery Manager	April 2027