



Return to Setting Post COVID-19

This policy was adopted at meeting of Little Thetford Acorns Pre-school and Children's Club. Staff failure to comply with this policy may be considered serious enough to result in the induction of disciplinary procedures.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Date of adoption | May 2020 |
| Date for Review | |
| Signed (<i>on behalf of the management committee</i>) | |
| Name of signatory | Kate Hilton |
| Role of signatory | Chair |

Return to Setting Post COVID-19

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection, Health, Safety & Suitability of Premises

Providers must have and implemented policies and procedures to safeguard children

Policy statement

This policy is to ensure we maintain the safety of all our children and staff whilst on the premises and in our care with specific regard to how Little Thetford Acorns will implement measures to minimise risk to children, families and staff in the reopening of our setting in the context of COVID-19.

Procedures

We carry out the following procedures to ensure we meet the standards required to be considered safe for staff and children to return to Little Thetford Acorns.

- We have carried out thorough COVID-19 specific risk assessments based on risks to children, staff and the setting. We have also reviewed and ensured our existing risk assessments are adequate and up to date. Full details of changes to setting procedures are available in these risk assessments. **See Appended documents to this policy.**
- We will ensure all staff are aware of new/updated procedures in light of these assessments.
- We have consulted all families currently registered to attend and can currently safely meet the demand for places based on adaptations to our setting and ways of working. We will review the number of places available on a weekly basis to assess demand and allow sufficient time for planning safe practice. See Letter to Parents dated 28 May 2020
- Wherever possible based on staff/child ratio, we will create small social 'bubbles' of no more than 8 children in order to limit the number of interactions staff and children will have whilst in the setting. These 'bubbles' will remain consistent throughout the day/week wherever possible.
- We will not expect children to maintain the 2 metre social distancing technique as 'early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff' (DfE, 12 May 2020),

- Children or staff who are unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus, or have someone in their household who has symptoms, may not attend pre-school for 14 days or until a negative test result is obtained. Please notify pre-school immediately.
- We will take children's temperatures at the start of each session - if a child has a temperature of 37.8 degrees or above they will not be allowed to attend pre-school.
- We expect families to follow government and NHS guidance on Self-Isolating. Please follow this link:
 - www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection
- We will incorporate increased hand washing and sanitizing into our daily routine and promote the use of the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' approach to hygiene around coughs and sneezes.
- We ask families to provide children with a healthy snack for each session they are attending to be provided in a labelled, sealed container.
- Staff are to limit the number of personal belongings and equipment they bring into setting from home and store those they do bring in named lockers.
- Children are only to bring a spare change of clothing, a snack and lunch if needed, into the setting, No toys from home will be allowed into the setting
- Parents/Carers will not be allowed to enter the preschool building
- We expect parents and carers to observe social distancing (2 metres) when dropping off/collecting children and ask that only one parent/carer drops off and collects
- We will regularly clean frequently touched surfaces and remove unnecessary/hard to clean items. There will be no sand, messy play or playdough available.
- We will carry out an enhanced level of cleaning, putting in place a schedule including disinfecting where appropriate.
- We will aim to maximise the use of our outdoor space for play and learning opportunities.
- We will take appropriate action to keep any child displaying symptoms during a session in a separate area with a member of staff. Appropriate PPE (gloves and mask) will be provided for any member of staff who is in close contact with a child displaying symptoms. Parents/Carers will be contacted immediately so that they can collect the child.
- Once the child or member of staff has left the setting we will thoroughly clean the setting to ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and any PPE and other

waste is disposed of safely as per government guidance on the cleaning of non-healthcare settings.

- We will follow NHS/Government advice and guidance on testing and self isolating where a child or staff member in our setting displays possible symptoms.

“Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all staff and children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Visit the [guidance on coronavirus testing and how to arrange to have a test](#).

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their immediate group within their setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. For childminding settings, this applies to everyone attending your setting who came into contact with the child or staff member. The other household members of those advised to self-isolate do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms. Take appropriate steps to deputise responsibilities or arrange cover if affected members of staff fulfil designated roles, for example paediatric first aid, SENCO or safeguarding lead.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings#Section4>

- We have reviewed our essential policies and procedures with relevant updates according to the Early Years Alliance advice.

References

- **DfE Preparing for the wider reopening of Early Years and Childcare settings from 1 June 2020**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings>
- **Public Health England - COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>
- **Early Years Alliance**
<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-early-years>
- **Cambridgeshire County Council – Early Years and Childcare Information**
www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/business-support/coronavirus-provider-updates