

Termoncanice Nursery Unit

Health and Hygiene Policy

RATIONALE

At Termoncanice Nursery, a smoke free building, we believe that if children are taught good health and hygiene habits at an early age they will continue good habits throughout their lives. The adults will show good example e.g. by covering their mouths when coughing and sneezing and being aware of good hygiene themselves.

HEALTH

Staff must be informed about any medical condition or if a child is on prescribed medication. The parent or guardian should administer medication before the child comes to the session. If a child has a medical condition that may require medication administered during a session eg. EPIPEN, parents will be requested to sign a permission slip. They must leave a medication box with the child's photograph on it for staff to keep in the nursery office.

Staff must be notified about any contagious infections so that other parents are informed e.g. Chickenpox, measles, impetigo etc.

Children should not attend the Nursery if they are unwell. If the child is sick the parent or minder will be contacted. It is important that we have up to date telephone numbers. In emergencies the child's doctor may be contacted.

It is important to keep your child at home and to inform staff if your child has a contagious illness as other parents have to be informed of any outbreaks of measles, chickenpox, impetigo, etc.

Ensure that your child's hair is regularly checked for head lice. Treatment must only be carried out when a "living louse" is found. If you do apply lotion remember to treat again the following week. If a member of staff notices that a child has head lice the parent will be informed.

A First Aid box is available for emergencies.

The staff are trained on how to administer an Epipen and on how to administer medication to a child who has an epileptic fit.

HYGIENE

Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating, after messy play and after using the toilet.

They will be encouraged to blow and wipe their noses when necessary and to dispose of soiled tissues hygienically. They will be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose when they sneeze or cough.

Children will brush their teeth each day at nursery. The toothbrushes will not be shared and will be stored separately.

Health care professionals (dental hygienist, nurse, cook etc.) will visit the Nursery and talk to the children.

SNACK

Any snack provided will be nutritious as outlined in our Snack Policy. Attention will be paid to children’s particular dietary requirements. The food will be fresh, washed if necessary and kept covered until needed. All those handling food will have washed hands prior to this.

CLEANING

All kitchen utensils will be thoroughly cleaned and washed every day after use and stored in clean cupboards. Tables/worktops used for food will be cleaned before and after eating. Cups, bowls and kitchen utensils will be sterilized regularly. All dish cloths, towels and drying cloths are washed on a daily basis and sterilized regularly. Bins will be emptied daily.

The staff cleaner will wash and disinfect the toilets on a daily basis. The nursery carpets will be vacuumed daily and the floor will be cleaned regularly.

Monitoring and Reviewing

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis and more frequently if the need arises by the Principal, Vice-Principal, Nursery Coordinator and Board of Governors.

Signature.....
Nursery Coordinator
Date.....

Signature.....
Principal
Date.....

Signature.....
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

