

Laundry Policy and Procedure

Infections can spread easily in childcare settings where large numbers of children, who are vulnerable to infection because their immunity may not be fully developed, come into close contact with each other.

We have a legal responsibility to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff within the nursery through adopting policies which help to prevent and control infection.

Laundry can be a potential source of infection. Our Laundry is carried out on site primarily by our Kitchen Manager in a separate designated area which is not our kitchen or in play areas. We have one large washing machine and one tumble dryer and these are checked regularly and are put through a PAT test once a year. We always keep clean laundry away from dirty laundry.

Sheets used for sleeping mats or cots are dedicated to individual children and are laundered at least once a week or sooner if required.

Laundry which is either soiled or infected will be placed directly into the washing machine by the member of staff who has brought it to the machine. Gloves must be worn to carry out this task. If there is already washing in the washing machine then the soiled or infected item should be placed in a carrier bag and placed in the laundry basket. This will then indicate to the Kitchen Manager that the item is soiled and for precautions to be taken so as not to touch the item.

We aim to launder linen and clothing at the highest possible temperature – 60 degs is usually the minimum. However, some soft toys need lower temperatures and we wash these items following the manufacturer's instructions. Washing at this higher temperature helps to kill any microorganisms that may be present.

Children's Personal Clothing

We do not rinse, soak or wash soiled children's own clothing.

When handling soiled children's clothing, staff should always wear gloves and a disposable apron. Soiled items should be placed into a clear plastic bag and tied – preferably a nappy bag. Bags should be stored in the children's bathrooms away from food preparation, eating areas and children's play areas. Make a note in the rooms diary in order to be reminded that the parent/carer will need to take the soiled clothing home.

Staff will explain to parents/carers that washing the clothes in childcare settings can expose children and staff to microorganisms which can cause infection. Advise parents/carers that while receiving soiled clothes is unpleasant, this policy protects the health of both children and staff.

Other related documents:

All policies documents are subject to regular review

This policy was reviewed: April 2014