**Infection and Hygiene Policy**

In line with Infection prevention and Control in Childcare Settings publication, Apple Tree Nursery promotes a healthy lifestyle and a high standard of hygiene.

**Outdoor Play**

Children have the opportunity to play in the fresh air throughout the year, either in the

nursery garden or on outings. All children wash their hands after outdoor play.

**Food**

All staff have undertaken Food Hygiene training.

All snacks provided are nutritious and attention paid to children’s particular dietary requirements. Parents must inform Apple Tree Nursery of any food allergies. Staff will be advised of any food allergies and a note will be displayed in food preparation areas. Allergen information is displayed in the kitchen and for parents on their information board.

When cooking with children as an activity, adults and children will wear appropriate protective equipment and wash their hands before handling food. The food provided will be healthy and wholesome, promoting and extending the children’s understanding of a healthy diet.

**Food Hygiene**

To prevent the spread of all infection, the following good practices are observed:

* Always wash hands with antibacterial liquid soap under running water before handling food and after using the toilet.
* Wear disposable aprons.
* Food will not be prepared by anybody suffering from any infectious/contagious illness or skin trouble.
* Never cough or sneeze over food.
* Prepare raw and cooked food in separate areas.
* Fridge/freezer temperatures will be taken twice a day and displayed on the fridge door.
* Ensure waste is disposed of properly daily and out of reach of the children.
* Wash fresh fruits and vegetables thoroughly before use.
* Tea towels will be kept scrupulously clean and washed after each session.
* All utensils will be kept clean and stored in a dust free place e.g. closed cupboard or drawer.
* Plastic plates, cups, bowls and cutlery will be used by the children.
* Staff who have had diarrhoea or sickness will remain absent from nursery for 48 hours after the last bout and therefore will not be involved in food preparation.

**Hand Hygiene**

Hand hygiene is widely acknowledged and accepted as the most effective way of preventing and controlling preventable infections. In order to do this it has to be carried out at appropriate times, using the correct facilities, products and procedure.

At Apple Tree Nursery designated hand washing sinks with hot and cold running water can be found in the kitchen area and toilet/nappy changing rooms. Antibacterial soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers are accessible at these sinks and bins for disposal of paper towels are also located close by.

**At Apple Tree Nursery....**

* All children and staff must wash their hands on arrival at nursery.
* All children and staff must wash their hands before meals/snacks.
* All children and staff must wash their hands before they participate in cooking or preparing food activities.
* All staff must wash their hands after tidying/cleaning food preparation areas, playrooms, toilet/changing facilities and resources/equipment.
* All children and staff are encouraged to cover their mouth when sneezing or coughing and then to wash their hands.
* All children and staff must wash their hands after outdoor play.
* All children and staff must wash their hands after touching animals.
* All children and staff are encouraged to wash their hands after messy play.
* All children and staff must wash their hands after blowing noses and disposing of tissues.
* All children and staff must wash their hands after toileting and/or nappy changing.

Staff teach and encourage children to wash their hands properly, using posters and video clips from

<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com>

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**Cleaning and Clearing**

* There are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children who are in nappies or have an accident.
* Disposable non latex gloves and disposable aprons are always used when changing a child’s nappy or soiled clothing.
* All nappies/wipes are stored in a child’s own lidded box.
* Soiled clothing is double bagged to minimise cross infection.
* Paper towels are used and disposed of appropriately.
* Hygiene rules relating to bodily fluids are followed with particular care and all staff and volunteers aware of how infections including HIV infection, can be transmitted.
* Spare laundered clothing is available in case of accidents and polythene bags available in which to wrap soiled garments.
* Floors and other affected surfaces are disinfected using cleaning products according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
* All surfaces are cleaned daily with an appropriate cleaner.
* Different coloured cleaning cloths/mops for the kitchen and toilet areas.
* All toys and resources are cleaned in line with the nursery’s equipment cleaning procedures.

**Sleeping**

* Children have their own sleeping blankets and muslins children a which are put down in the cot or on the mat for sleeping. These are laundered at the end of every week.

**Illness**

When a child’s parent/carer reports an absence due to illness a deep clean is carried out and any material/dressing up is sent to the laundry.

Cleaning of food prep/messy areas is carried out by staff after every snack/lunch. Thorough daily cleaning of all areas in nursery is carried out by a cleaner at the end of every nursery day.

All cleaning and floor cloths, face cloths, tea towels etc are put for laundry at the end of every day. Blankets, muslins etc are put for laundry at the end of every week. Laundry is collected twice a week.