####  **SOUTHWICK PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

 INFECTION CONTROL AND ADMISSION DURING SICKNESS POLICY

#### **Rigorous infection control measures**

Southwick Pre-school playgroup has rigorous infection control measures in place such as:

* good basic hygiene practices such as regular hand-washing (practitioners and children)
* supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water
* clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
* waterproof dressing to cover on any existing wounds or lesions
* personal protective equipment (PPE) such as aprons and gloves are used as necessary
* clear procedures are in place for cleaning equipment and wider environment
* immediate cleaning of spillages of blood and other bodily fluids
* clear procedures on safe disposal of waste
* infection control guidance and management procedures in place which are clearly understood and adhered to by staff
* any items that come into contact with mouths such as cups, bottles and straws should not be shared.

#### **Handwashing**

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands.

We also remind children to wash their hands:

* after outside breaks
* before meals and snack times
* after using the toilet
* when they arrive at your setting

If we do not have access to soap and water to hand at the time, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wipes can be used instead. Look for products with minimum 60% alcohol. It is important that everyone should try not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

#### **Ventilation**

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading viral infections, so a focus on improving general air flow, preferably through fresh air or effective mechanical systems, can help to create a safer environment for staff and children.

It is important to ensure our setting is well ventilated and that a comfortable environment is maintained.

We identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of our risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example for a show or play.

Where it is safe to do so, opening external windows can improve natural ventilation and, in addition, opening internal doors, can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (where safe to do so).

**WHEN YOUR CHILD IS NOT WELL** :

* If your child had a case if sickness or diarrhoea, you have to keep them at home for 48 hours after the last instance.
* If your child has a case of chicken pox, it's safe to return to the setting after the last blister is scabbed over and the child is well in general.
* If your child has a case of HFMD they should stay at home until they are feeling better, haven`t had a fever for at least 24 hours without medication and don`t have open sores.
* If your child has a case of any other viral or bacterial infection (scarlet fever, conjunctivitis etc.) the setting would assess the quarantine requirements accordingly to NHS advice.

General advice and guidance to the parents and the carers is to try and keep your children at home is they are not well, especially if you feel the need to give them Calpol or other medication and assume it`s fine for them to attend the setting.

Please keep in your consideration other children and staff, as we find that the illnesses can spread very quickly can affect large numbers and some of the children develop complications, which can last for weeks.

If your child needs antibiotics we ask parents and carers to keep them under observation at home for the first 24 hours in case of complications or a reaction to medication.

* [UK Health
Security
Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency)
* Preventing and controlling infections guidance updated on 21 of February 2024.

Guidance

**Preve** Guidance

# **Preventing and controlling infections**

Updated 21 The policy is written on 01/03/2024 and to be reviewed annually.