



## Policy on Infection Control

### Policy Statement

It is the priority of Grace Park Montessori to protect all pre-school children attending our service and all persons working in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children, staff and visitors to our service is paramount and our aim is to minimize and manage the risk of infection for all present in the service.

At Grace Park Montessori, we aim to minimize the spread of infection for staff and children through the implementation of controls which reduce the transmission and spread of germs. We aim to promote and maintain the health of children and staff through the control of infectious illnesses.

### Principle

This policy is underwritten by the *Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations, 2016*.

### Rationale

Infection can lead to serious ill health among infants and young children. Infection control procedures seek to reduce the risk of children getting sick in a service by ensuring good hygiene is followed and the risk of infection is minimized.

### Prevention and Infection Control Measures

- A hand washing policy is in place which all staff promote and model for children. This policy is implemented, in particular, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, after waste disposal and after mopping up spills.
- In line with the *HSE Guidelines: Managing an infectious disease in childcare setting*, parents are required to **keep their child at home** if the child has an infectious illness. This is of critical importance in reducing the risk of infection.
- When a child/ staff member is diagnosed with an infection, the *HSE Guidelines for Exclusion* will be followed.
- Daily, weekly and monthly cleaning schedules are in place and records kept.
- Our premises are free from pests and rodents and our premises are cleaned on a daily basis. We have a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at our service.
- All staff receive regular support and supervision in relation to infection control and training therein is provided.

- Our service carries and maintains a stock of cleaning products and materials to ensure that hygiene is maintained at all times.
- When made available to us, we provide information leaflets on immunization schedules, oral hygiene and prevention of infection.

### **Procedures for Managing an Outbreak of Illness**

Infection control procedures seek to reduce the risk of children getting sick in a service by ensuring good hygiene is followed and the risk of infection is minimized.

- If a parent knows or suspects that a child has a contagious condition, they are obliged to inform the pre-school Directress and to arrange for a medical consultation and treatment, if needed.
- If staff observe symptoms of a potentially infectious illness in a child, parents will be notified and asked to seek medical advice and intervention, as required.
- The Directress will report any outbreak of any infectious disease to parents and to any other relevant stakeholders.
- The Directress will record all details of illness reported by parents of a child attending the service. These details will include the name, symptoms, dates and duration of illness.
- Before a child returns to the pre-school having overcome a contagious condition, a doctor's certificate may be required to confirm they are no longer infectious.
- Parents are required to keep children at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting for at least **48 hours after becoming symptom free**.
- Parents will be required **to care for their child at home** if the child is suffering from or showing any of the following symptoms:
  - Acute symptoms of food poisoning / gastroenteritis
  - A temperature which is over 38°C (100.5°F)
  - Any contagious / infectious diseases, such as, impetigo, chicken pox
  - A severe earache, or a deep hacking cough
  - Severe congestion
  - Difficulty breathing or untreated wheezing
  - An unexplained rash
  - Vomiting (more than twice in 24 hours)
  - Diarrhoea (more than twice in 24 hours)
  - Inability to participate comfortably in activities as assessed by staff
  - Requiring more individual care than staff can provide as this may result in compromising care for the other children
  - Complaints of a stiff neck and headache with one or more of the above symptoms
  - Evidence of head lice: parents must not send their child to school until the child's hair has been treated with a medicated shampoo and combed with a lice comb

- Any other indication of having contracted a contagious condition.

## **Notifiable Diseases**

Grace Park Montessori is aware that a list of notifiable diseases is available from the HSE.

In the case of a notifiable disease or if the spread of an illness, the Directress will notify the local Túsła office and the HSE Public Health Department.

If contacted by the Department of Public Health Medicine, and advised that a confirmed case, as listed, has been detected, Grace Park Montessori will contact Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate.

The pre-school Directress will seek guidance and advice from the Department of Public Health Medicine as to the appropriate precautions to be taken in the service and as to follow up of contacts and procedures.

Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred.

## **Hygiene Procedures**

### *Hand washing*

Staff must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, before feeding children, before eating or drinking, after using the toilet or assisting children using the toilet, dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning procedures, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves.

A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is also available in all bathrooms, kitchens and activity rooms.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands under supervision after using the toilet, before eating, and after playing outside.

### *Toilet Use*

Children attending Grace Park Montessori Pre-School should be capable of using the toilet. As we are not a creche, we do not provide nappy changing or laundry facilities. Occasionally, a child who is almost independent in toileting may wear pampers/pull-ups as a security. In case a child attending the service has an 'accident', parents are required to leave a change of fresh clothes in a reusable bag. If a child has an 'accident', he or she is taken to the toilet and changed into the fresh clothes provided. Disposable gloves and aprons are used. Pampers/pull ups, if any, are discarded, safely. The parents are informed, discreetly, at collection time and the child's damp/stained clothes are returned in the reusable bag. A fresh change of clothes for keeping in case of further 'accidents' will be required.

In the event of repeated 'accidents', parents will be contacted and will be required to address and resolve the situation at home.

### *General Cleaning*

The classroom, play area and toilet are routinely cleaned in advance of each session. Intensive cleaning takes places each Friday. Staff are obliged to wear protective gloves when cleaning. Hands must be washed when gloves are removed.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with our

- Health & Safety Policy
- Risk management Policy
- Staff training Policy
- Supervision Policy

This Policy was articulated in writing by Grace Park Montessori in July 2018.

*Jozefa Chrobak*  
Directress

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