



Coronavirus/Covid-19 Guidance

As a childcare provider, we take health and safety in our nurseries extremely seriously. Considering the current outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have put together some information, all of which is based on Public Health England Guidance for Educational Settings and World Health Organisation advice.

We are fortunate that our settings are already at a distinct advantage for a response to COVID-19. Our facilities are purposefully built around access to plenty of outside space which we use whatever the weather. This allows us to run small group activities inside and out, get plenty of fresh air and exercise as well as offer child-led free flow play. Children will be able to enjoy Forest School sessions, our allotments and our garden areas. We are of course taking the utmost precautions, but we similarly need to prioritise positive experiences and social interaction.

A limited number of Footsteps' settings have remained open for key-worker children throughout the lockdown period and as such, we have been able to practically assess how we can follow guidelines to keep both staff and children in our care safe. We have re-enforced messages about personal hygiene to all children and staff and we are constantly checking that all of our facilities are properly stocked with soap and antibacterial hand gel. Our cleaning has always been very thorough to meet our high standards and we are making sure that the setting, as usual, is as hygienic as possible. In turn, our drop-off and pick-up policies have been adapted to allow for the required social distancing measures of 2m to be implemented. We thank those parents that have been so receptive of the new procedures so far as we put them in place.

Footsteps have prepared and issued guidance documents for our settings and management teams to follow in response to these unprecedented circumstances. Those documents have been made to help our teams understand current advice and precautionary measures around personal and environmental hygiene and, importantly, what to do in the event of a 'low' or 'high' level incident relating to a person displaying symptoms or where there is a confirmed case.

We continue to keep a close eye on advice from the Department of Health and Social Care, along with Public Health England, on the Government website. We are aware the situation is changing daily, and we will update you if further steps are required to minimise any risk to our community.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Further information can be found on the World Health Organisation and Public Health England websites:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>