

Safe and Healthy Nursery

At the Nest we are committed to providing a workplace which supports and encourages a healthy staff team through staff training, health and safety awareness and supervisions.

Dress code

Staff must always follow our dress code. The dress code is detailed in the Code of Conduct.

Staff breaks

It is the responsibility of the nursery manager to ensure that all staff working five hours or more take a break of 20, 30 or 60 minutes, dependent on hours worked and ensuring that staff-to-child ratios are maintained.

Staff under 18 require a break of 30 minutes in circumstances where they work 4.5 hours a day. All breaks should be taken away from an employee's normal work area (where this is possible).

Personal hygiene

To maintain a clean and comfortable environment for everyone, all staff members are expected to practice good personal hygiene. This includes the use of antiperspirant, if required, especially during warm weather or physical activities.

All hands must be washed before handling food, after using the toilet or toileting children, after playing outside, wiping noses, messy play activities and after contact with animals.

After noses have been wiped, the tissue must be disposed of hygienically and hands should be washed.

Cleaning

The nursery is committed to providing a safe, happy and healthy environment for children to play, grow and learn. Cleanliness is an essential element of this practice. The nursery is cleaned daily, and regular checks are made to the bathrooms. These are cleaned at least daily (more if necessary, i.e. at lunchtime). The nappy changing facility and potties are cleaned and disinfected after every use. Any mess caused throughout the day is cleaned up as necessary to ensure that a hygienic environment is provided for staff and the children in our care.

Kitchen

Staff are made aware of the basic food hygiene standards through appropriate training, and this is updated every three years. In addition, we ensure:

- Fridges are cleaned out weekly
- Microwaves are cleaned after every use
- Toasters are cleaned after every use
- The oven is cleaned out regularly and details recorded
- Freezers are cleaned out every three months and details recorded
- Plates/utensils etc. are rinsed before putting in the dishwasher and the dishwasher is cleaned out regularly and details recorded
- All cupboards are cleaned out monthly
- Fridge and freezer temperatures are recorded first thing in the morning by the manager/cook and last thing at night
- All food is always covered in and out of the fridge and dated to show when each product was opened, and used in date order

- Care is taken to ensure that food is correctly stored in fridges
- When re-heating food, the temperature is over 75°C, food is checked with the probe thermometer and recorded, then cooled down before serving. Food prepared on the premises is checked with the probe thermometer before serving
- Food served but not used immediately is appropriately covered and placed in the fridge/freezer within 60 minutes. If this is not followed, food is discarded immediately
- All opened packets are dated when opened and placed in an airtight container e.g. baby food, raisins, cereal etc.
- Blended food is placed in suitable airtight containers, named and dated
- Surfaces are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray
- Only appropriate coloured kitchen cloths are used (please follow the chart on the wall). These are washed daily in the dishwasher on a hot wash or disposed of.
- All plugs are pulled out of their sockets at the end of each day and switches switched off where practicable (except for the fridge and freezer)
- Children do NOT enter the kitchen
- Doors/gates to the kitchen are kept closed or locked at all times
- Kitchen bins are emptied when full and at the end of each day

Laundry area

- Washing machine drawers, etc. are cleaned regularly
- Tumble dryer lint filters are cleared after every use
- Staff follow HSE guidance on the safe use of tumble dryers, including using the 'cool down' cycle to reduce the temperature of items adequately. Items must not be removed from the dryer or piled/stacked while hot; they should be removed as soon as the drying/cooling cycle is complete. Tumble dryers must only be used for appropriate items, as stated on the washing label
- All staff are responsible for filling/emptying the washing machine/tumble dryer, folding clean clothing/items.

Baby room

- Bottles of formula milk are only made up as and when the child needs them. These are cooled to body temperature (37°C) and tested with a sterilised thermometer to ensure they are an appropriate temperature for the baby/child to drink safely
- Bottles and teats are thoroughly cleaned with hot, soapy water and sterilised after use (they are not washed in the dishwasher)
- Contents of bottles are disposed of after two hours
- A designated area is available for mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies or who wish to express milk
- Labelled mother's breast milk is stored in the fridge
- If dummies are used, they are cleaned and sterilised. This also applies to dummies which have been dropped on the floor
- All dummies are stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross-contamination occurs
- Sterilisers are washed out daily.


Nursery

- Staff are trained to be aware of general hygiene in the nursery and ensure that high standards are kept at all times
- Regular toy washing rotas are established in all rooms and items recorded. Toys are washed with sanitising fluid

- Floors are cleaned during the day when necessary. Vacuum cleaner bags (where used) are changed frequently
- Staff are requested to use the appropriate coloured mop for the task or area (see chart on wall) and mop heads are washed in a separate wash at least weekly
- Face cloths are washed on a hot wash after every use and not shared between children
- Low/highchairs are cleaned thoroughly after every use. Straps and reins must be washed weekly or as required
- Every child has their own cot sheet which is washed at the end of every week or whenever necessary
- All surfaces are kept clean and clutter-free
- Children are always reminded to wash their hands after using the bathroom and before meals. Staff always encourage good hygiene standards, for example, not eating food that has fallen on the floor
- Staff are positive role models and talk to the children about good hygiene routines and why they need to wash their hands, wipe their noses and cover their mouths when coughing.

Staff rooms

- It is the responsibility of every member of staff to ensure that their staff room is kept clean and tidy
- Fridges are cleaned out weekly
- Microwaves are cleaned after every use
- Surfaces are wiped down daily
- All items used for lunch or breaks are washed and tidied away.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
01/05/2026		01/05/2027