



LINKS CHILDCARE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Hand Hygiene Policy

Last Review Date: April 2023

Policy No. 20

Issued: 2019

Policy Statement

Links Childcare aims to keep children happy and healthy by supporting the children to understand the importance of hand washing. This policy is underpinned by the Childcare (Preschool Services) Regulations 2016. Good hand hygiene is the most effective way of preventing transmission of Infection, and staff will support children in using the proper technique for hand washing. This policy is available to all on www.linkschildcare.ie (<https://linkschildcare.ie/about-us/our-policies/>) or contact us at info@linkschildcare.ie.

Procedure

- The service will promote good hand hygiene techniques in line with HSE and WHO guidelines, and support children to do the same through modelling, signage, activities and games.
- Hand washing facilities are available in each childcare room, toilets, nappy changing areas, food preparation areas and cleaning areas.
- We will ensure an adequate supply of liquid soap, hand gel or rub and disposable or paper towels available throughout the premises.
- We will use liquid soap and warm running water for hand washing and only use hand gels or rubs where running water is not available.
- Children can avail of the hand washing facilities when they need, and they will be encouraged and supported to practice this new skill.
- Wash hand basins have hot and cold mixer taps that are thermostatically controlled to ensure that hot water is no hotter than 43° to avoid scalding and facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Staff encourage children to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating any food and after playing outside.
- Guidelines on handwashing are displayed in the crèche. These guidelines incorporate visual images that are appropriate for staff and children.

Staff wash their hands before/after the following:

- The start of the work shift
- Eating, handling/preparing food or assisting/feeding a child
- Preparing meals, snacks and drinks (including babies' bottles)
- Using the toilet or helping a child to use the toilet
- Nappy changing/handling potties
- Playing, or handling items, in the playground – e.g. toys, sand, water
- Handling secretions e.g. from a child's nose or mouth, from sores or cuts, blood or body fluids (faeces, vomit, spit, nappies, pads, pus and urine);
- Handling or dealing with waste or rubbish;
- When caring for the sick
- When hands are dirty
- The removal of disposable gloves and/or aprons
- Cleaning the Room



LINKS CHILDCARE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Hand Hygiene Policy

Last Review Date: April 2023

Policy No. 20

Issued: 2019

- Before and after being on public transport
- When arriving and leaving the workplace/other sites
- Before and after being in a crowd
- Washing/handling of soiled clothes
- Coughing or sneezing
- After applying sunscreen
- After touching cuts, blisters or any open sores
- And at all other obviously necessary occasions

Children should wash their hands and be supervised doing so

- When they arrive at the Service and before they go home
- Before eating and drinking
- After a nappy change or using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After sneezing or coughing into their hands
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Remember:

- Hands are washed with warm water and liquid soap.
- Cuts are covered with water proof plasters.
- Nails of staff are clean and short.
- Nail polish is not acceptable.
- Liquid soap dispensers are utilised within the crèche

Handwashing should be performed as follows:

- Wet hands under warm running water to wrist level
- Apply liquid soap. Lather it evenly covering all areas of the hands for at least 20 seconds. Include the thumbs, finger tips, palms and in between the fingers, rubbing backwards and forwards at every stroke
- Rinse hands off thoroughly under warm running water
- Dry with paper towel using a patting motion to reduce friction, taking special care between the fingers
- Use the disposable paper towel that has been used to dry the hands to turn off taps
- Dispose of the disposable paper towel in a waste bin using the foot pedal to avoid contaminating hands that have just been washed

Review

Management, in consultation with staff, monitors and reviews the effectiveness of this policy yearly or as required.

Review Dates:	January 2020	June 2020 *Covid	October 2020	April 2023
----------------------	--------------	---------------------	--------------	------------