



Hygiene & Infection Control Policy (Including Illness Guidance)

Policy Statement

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is committed to maintaining a clean, hygienic and safe environment for all babies, parents and caregivers attending sessions. Due to the age range of children attending, effective hygiene and infection control procedures are essential to minimise the spread of illness and protect vulnerable babies.

Reasonable steps are taken to ensure equipment, materials and session environments are cleaned appropriately and that families are supported in maintaining good hygiene practices. Parents and caregivers are also expected to follow this policy to help protect all attendees.

General Hygiene Procedures

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock maintains high standards of hygiene by:

- Cleaning toys and equipment regularly
- Sanitising mats between sessions where required
- Inspecting sensory equipment before use
- Removing any damaged or soiled items immediately
- Encouraging good hand hygiene
- Using wipeable or washable materials where possible
- Avoiding use of equipment that cannot be cleaned effectively
- Ensuring soft play items are kept clean and in good condition

Equipment that becomes contaminated during a session will be removed and cleaned before reuse.

Hand Hygiene

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene, particularly:

- Before and after sessions
- After nappy changes
- After feeding
- After contact with bodily fluids
- After messy or sensory play activities

Hand sanitiser may be available where appropriate, however parents remain responsible for their own child's hygiene needs.

Cleaning of Equipment

All equipment used during sessions is cleaned on a regular basis. This includes:

- Soft play equipment
- Sensory toys
- Mats and floor coverings
- Props used during activities
- Shared items used by multiple babies



Cleaning methods may include:

- Antibacterial wipes
- Spray disinfectant
- Machine washing (where suitable)
- Air drying before storage

Items that cannot be adequately cleaned will not be used.

Bodily Fluids Procedure

If bodily fluids are present during a session:

- Area will be cleared where possible
- Disposable gloves will be used
- Contaminated items removed
- Mats and surfaces cleaned
- Waste disposed of safely
- Equipment removed until sanitised

This helps reduce the risk of infection spreading to other babies.

Illness Guidance

To protect all babies attending sessions, families should not attend if a baby, parent or caregiver is unwell. This includes but is not limited to:

- Fever or high temperature
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Contagious illness
- Persistent cough
- Suspected viral infection
- Rash of unknown cause
- Eye infections such as conjunctivitis
- Hand, foot and mouth disease
- Chickenpox
- Impetigo
- COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms

Parents and caregivers are expected to use their judgement and avoid attending where illness may be contagious.

48 Hour Rule

Babies and caregivers who have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea should not attend sessions until at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. This helps reduce the spread of infection.

Illness During a Session

If a baby becomes unwell during a session:

- Parent/carer remains responsible for care
- Parent may be asked to leave the session if appropriate



- Area may be cleaned if required
- Contaminated equipment removed
- Incident recorded if necessary

The safety of all attendees will be prioritised.

Open Wounds and Minor Injuries

Parents and caregivers should ensure any cuts or open wounds on themselves or their baby are covered where possible. This helps reduce the risk of infection.

Teething and Drooling

It is recognised that babies in this age group may drool or mouth toys. To minimise risk:

- Items visibly mouthed may be removed
- Toys are cleaned regularly
- Parents are encouraged to monitor their baby
- Shared items may be rotated

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and caregivers are responsible for:

- Not attending when unwell
- Supervising their baby at all times
- Managing their baby's hygiene needs
- Cleaning up where appropriate
- Informing of any contagious illness
- Following the 48 hour sickness rule

Parents remain responsible for nappy changing and disposal.

Nappy Changing

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock does not provide nappy changing facilities unless available within the venue. Parents remain responsible for changing their baby using appropriate facilities provided by the venue.

Soiled nappies must be disposed of in appropriate bins provided by the venue or taken home if required.

Food and Feeding

Parents are responsible for managing feeding during sessions. Care should be taken to:

- Clean up spills
- Dispose of waste appropriately
- Avoid sharing food between babies
- Consider allergy awareness

Exclusion Periods

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock reserves the right to request that families do not attend sessions where illness may pose a risk to others. Families are welcome to return once symptoms have resolved and exclusion periods have passed.



Commitment

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is committed to maintaining a hygienic environment and reducing the spread of illness wherever reasonably possible. Cooperation from all parents and caregivers helps ensure sessions remain safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Date of Policy: April 2026

Date of Policy Renewal: April 2027

Signed: Rebecca Marfell

8th April 2026