



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, children, 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. Handwashing facilities are available at every venue.

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)
- White vinegar solution
- Milton disinfectant

Items that cannot be adequately cleaned will not be used.

Bodily Fluids Procedure

If bodily fluids are present during a session:

- The area will be cleared where possible
- Disposable gloves will be used
- Contaminated items will be removed
- Mats and surfaces will be cleaned and sanitised
- Waste will be disposed of safely
- Equipment will be removed from use until fully cleaned

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

Illness Guidance

To protect all babies and children attending sessions, families should not attend if a baby, child, 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 or child becomes unwell during a session:

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



- The area may be cleaned if required
- Contaminated equipment will be removed
- The incident will be 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 will be removed
- Toys are cleaned regularly in between sessions
- Shared items may be rotated between sessions

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and caregivers are responsible for:

- Not attending when unwell
- Supervising their baby or child at all times
- Managing their baby or child's hygiene needs
- Supporting their child's toileting needs during sessions
- Cleaning up where appropriate, so the class leader can disinfect
- Informing the session leader 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.

Toilet Training and Accidents

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock welcomes children at different stages of development, including those who are beginning their toilet training journey.

To help maintain a clean, hygienic and safe environment for all families attending, we kindly ask that children who are not yet fully confident and secure with toilet training wear a pull-up during our 45-minute sessions.

This helps reduce the risk of accidents involving bodily fluids and ensures the space remains hygienic for babies, toddlers and families attending.

Parents and caregivers remain responsible for supporting their child's toileting needs during sessions. If an accident does occur:

- The parent/carer should inform the session leader as soon as possible



- The affected area will be cleaned and sanitised appropriately
- Any affected toys or equipment will be removed from use and cleaned before being returned
- Disposable gloves and appropriate hygiene procedures will be followed where required

Any toys or resources that become soiled during a session should be placed in the designated basket provided so they can be removed from circulation and thoroughly cleaned before the next use.

We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us keep Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock a clean, safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

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: July 2026

Date of Policy Renewal: July 2027

Signed: Rebecca Marfell

31st July 2026