



Hygiene Procedures in Early Years Classrooms

Keeping the Early Years classroom environment clean and orderly is very important for health, safety, and the emotional well-being of both staff and children.

In addition to regular and thorough cleaning procedures, it is important that teaching staff and assistants are able to follow any clean up procedures effectively and safely in the event of an emergency.

Vomit, faeces, urine and blood may contain large numbers of infectious germs so strict procedures must be followed to prevent the spread of disease.

Apart from those necessary to attend to the ill/injured person, staff and children should be quickly removed from the area and the room or area blocked off, until cleaners are able to come and disinfect it thoroughly.

If bodily fluids need to be cleaned immediately from a classroom or play area, then the following procedures should be followed at all times:

- Wear protective clothing-such as plastic gloves and/or apron.
- Wipe up the bodily fluid using paper towels/tissues/baby wipes. Place tissues over the waste, then carefully remove the tissue and its contents.
- Work from the outside-in to minimise the spread of infectious material.
- Dispose of all paper towels/gloves/waste/aprons in a sealed plastic bag.
- Place contaminated mats, items of clothing, cushions in a separate bag and take straight to the cleaners to be washed on a high heat.

The area must then be thoroughly disinfected and dried by a member of the cleaning staff before children are able to resume access.

When cleaning bodily fluids from a child (vomit/diarrhoea), the following procedures should be followed:

- Wear single-use disposable gloves
- Clean the child using liquid soap, water and paper towels.

- Bits of any soiled items in a plastic, sealed bag.
- Remove gloves and apron and seal in a plastic bag for disposal. Wash and dry hands thoroughly.

To assist with proper clean-up procedures and effective infection control, the Early Years bathrooms will contain a mini 'spill kit'. These kits will contain items to help clean up bodily fluid spills quickly, in the event of an accident in the classroom:

Wet wipes

Disposable gloves

Plastic bags

Anti-bacterial spray

These kits must be kept stocked up and stored on a shelf, out of the reach of children.

Water Play hygiene

Water tables/trays can harbour germs that can be spread from person to person. Tables should be emptied after use, and cleaned and dried prior to storage in the EY store room every Friday. Children should wash their hands after playing at the water table. Do not allow children with open cuts or wounds to play in the water. Carefully supervise children to ensure they don't drink the water and discard the water from the table after the play session.