



Bristol Children's Playhouse Growing Together **Covid 19 Policy and Procedure**

From 1st June 2020 Bristol Children's Playhouse (BCPH) will start to welcome children back to the setting. This will necessitate some different measures to help limit the spread of the virus. In this policy, these measures will be explained.

The Government guidance for Action for Education and Childcare Settings to Prepare for Wider Opening states:

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out in our [guidance](#):

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- and minimising contact and mixing as far as possible

These measures have been central to our planning for wider opening.

Groups

Children and practitioners are arranged into groups. These groups will be a maximum of 15 people. Children are placed into groups before they return to nursery. There will not be any movement between groups for children or practitioners. The groups will have separate indoor areas and outdoor areas will be divided or timetabled. We will make all efforts for these groups not to mix.

Resources will not be shared between groups throughout the day.

Places

The indoor spaces being used have been limited. Along with the numbers in the groups, this has led to a temporary cap on the places offered. Criteria have been identified for offering places in our groups for children to attend. Priority has been given in this order to:

- children of key workers
- vulnerable children
- children with SEND
- Children who will be going to school in September
- 2 year olds eligible for funded places and those eligible for EYPP
- 3 year olds



Risk assessments

The following risk assessments have been undertaken and will be shared with the relevant staff.

- individual staff
- children with SEND
- the environment
- Risks directly associated with COVID-19

A copy of this can be seen upon request.

EYFS

Practitioners will make reasonable measures to meet the learning and development requirements outlined in the EYFS and provide experiences over the 7 areas of learning. All staff will be aware that children's Personal, Social and Emotional development may have been affected by the COVID 19 outbreak and will be mindful of the support that they need.

The staff to child ratios will continue to apply.

The EYFS Coronavirus disapplications guidance states that

- the 2 year old check does not need to be completed during this time.
- exceptions can be made relating to staff qualifications in ratio requirements.
- the Safeguarding lead does not have to be on site.

The Physical Environment

The indoor spaces of BCPH will be prepared prior to the return of any children. The indoor spaces that can be used will be limited to allow for a manageable amount of cleaning between sessions. Measurements will be taken to ensure that the space requirements defined in the EYFS are not exceeded.

Indoor spaces will be cleaned by the cleaning company thoroughly at the end of each day. Indoor and outdoor resources and outdoor spaces will be cleaned by staff at the end of each working day using Anti bacterial sprays or disinfecting liquids. Frequently touched surfaces such as toilets will be cleaned thoroughly throughout the day.



Requirements for parents

Although BCPH will try to ensure that these changes don't affect children too dramatically, there will be significant changes that parents need to be aware of to help us limit the spread of the virus.

- The drop off and pick up times will be staggered so that parents are not congregating during these times. Parents will be asked to stay strictly to these times. Physical markings are placed outside so that parents physically distance.
- We will ask for only one parent/ carer to drop off or pick up a child.
- Parents are asked to stay outside of the front gate of BCPH and children will be collected by a familiar member of staff or brought out at the end of the day. It is understood that for some children, this may be detrimental to the emotional well-being and we will make plans with these parents individually.
- Parents will be asked not to bring unnecessary items from home. If items are brought in, they will need to be cleaned thoroughly on entering the setting.
- Parents cannot leave buggies, bikes etc at the setting.
- Children will be asked to bring in their own snacks. If they do not bring something in, whole pieces of fruit will be offered.
- Parents will be asked to bring children who wear nappies in a clean nappy each day. If these children attend for 3 hours, they will not be changed unless their nappies are soiled or visibly wet.
- We will provide nappies, during this period, so that they don't need to be brought from home.
- Parents will be asked to apply suncream in the morning before children arrive at the setting. This will be reapplied by staff if necessary in the day, using a spray bottle of sun cream and children will be encouraged to rub it in themselves.
- Parents will be advised that children with symptoms need to be kept away from BCPH.
- Children need to bring their own water bottle in to nursery.
- If a child need to be changed during the day, they will be changed into nursery clothes. Their own clothes will be put a plastic bag and given to the parent on pick up.
- Parents will be discouraged from sending children to more than 1 setting
- Parents will be asked to bring children in old clothes as aprons won't be available.

Practitioners will make every effort to communicate individually with all parents and to make sure that they understand our new measurements.



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Requirements for staff

There are also some significant changes to expectations for staff.

- **Staff start times will be staggered. These times will be given out to staff and will be the same for every day that they work. If staff start times coincide with children arriving, they will need to wait in the physically distanced spaces outside.**
- **Staff will sign in on a sheet in the room in which they are working.**
- **Staff will be asked to bring in their own cutlery and crockery to be used in the setting.**
- **Lunch times will be set for staff and it will be the same each day. No more than 2 people will be having lunch at the same time and ideally, they will be in different rooms/ spaces. The staff room and the woods can be used for lunches.**
- **Staff will be asked to clean frequently touched items (such as phones, kettles) after they have touched them.**

Handwashing and hygiene

Children and staff will be expected to wash hands/ use hand gel more regularly. This will be required on arrival and before departure, before and after eating and on other intervals throughout the day. Children will be supervised to make sure that they are cleaning hands sufficiently.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will be used and promoted. Supplies of tissues will be readily available and pedal bins with lids will be available.

Children will be encouraged to develop their self care skills. This includes toileting, blowing their own noses and rubbing in their own suncream.

Protocol for suspected case

Anyone who begins to display coronavirus symptoms while in the setting should be sent home immediately and follow government guidelines on self- isolating. If a child is waiting to be collected, they should be separated from their group and isolated with one member of staff if this is possible.

A facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from a child who is symptomatic and awaiting collection and if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn. If a risk assessment determines there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing or spitting, then eye protection should also be worn.



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Once the child or staff has left the setting, we will ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their immediate group within their setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of those advised to self-isolate do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger group may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

We will ensure that emergency contacts are updated in advance of wider opening and consider where these may need to change, for example if previous emergency contacts are in a shielded group. We will communicate with parents about this on their return to the setting.

Other measures

Windows and doors will be kept open as far as possible to ensure ventilation and groups will use outdoor areas as much as possible. We will limit external visitors to the setting and ensure they only come into the building when strictly necessary, for example if providing an essential service or essential support for a child's health and wellbeing.