

Guidance around the use of sand, water and dough play during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Policy statement.

Settings should follow the same guidance as they would for any contagious infection.

At Katey's nursery and pre-school we would recommend in line with the existing national guidance, the following points are considered during the current pandemic:

Sand pits and sand trays.

An important protective measure in early years settings is to keep children and staff together in small consistent groups and to keep those small groups away from each other.

As sand cannot be thoroughly cleaned between different groups of children playing with it, outdoor and large sandpits should be taken out of use to reduce the risk of transmission between groups.

Managers and staff at Katey's nursery and pre-school should risk assess all planned activities in light of coronavirus and government guidance, in conjunction with relevant staff where applicable and consider how to implement protective measures that work in the nursery and keep children and staff safe.

If the nursery risk assessment demonstrates the following:

- The sand tray can be used by a small group or consistent bubble of children that does not change during the day or on consecutive days.
- No one outside the bubble would come into contact with it.
- The sand is cleaned and replaced frequently.

Then the manager may determine that they could use the sand tray in a controlled way that manages risk in the setting.

Managers and staff must ensure that if children do use the sand tray, they should wash their hands thoroughly before and after use.

IMPORTANT- Please ensure only four or less children are at the sand tray at any one time, and they are supervised thoroughly.

Please be aware and consider the following, “as children play, sand becomes airborne and inhaled,” explains Nick Ciccone of Kid Safe Sand. When these tiny particles of silica lurking in sandbox sand enter the children's lungs, it can cause serious illness.

Water play

Waterplay to be used if they are only being used by one bubble.

You must ensure that toys and resources shared between groups of children are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between different groups.

If a water tray / trough tray and associated resources are cleaned between different bubbles playing with them, they can be used in an early years' setting.

Consider how children dry their hands, remove communal towels but ensure they can dry hands effectively?

IMPORTANT- Please ensure only four or less children are at the sand tray at any one time, and they are supervised thoroughly.



Katey's Nursery & Pre-school

Play dough

If play dough is considered important for the children avoid sharing of items between groups of children in so far as is practical. Play dough should be replaced daily and resources used should be washed and disinfected regularly.

All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.

