



YMCA Childcare

Part of YMCA Trinity Group

# Welcome Back to YMCA Childcare

# YMCA





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## Welcome back!

We have missed all of our children and families very much and we hope that you are all well, we would also like to welcome any new families that are joining us this term. As you may already know, some of our YMCA Childcare settings have been able to remain open in order to provide childcare during the spring and summer months. The good news is the government has now confirmed that it is safe to welcome all children back to YMCA Childcare.

As an organisation we continue to follow the Governments guidelines which include ensuring we maintain the highest safety and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection with Covid-19. We have considered our practice and have carried out thorough Risk Assessments and implemented new Operational Procedures in line with the Government Guidance to ensure that we provide the most effective measures to ensure the children and staff's health and safety are met appropriately. These procedures will be updated regularly as guidance changes.

We understand that this is an anxious time for everyone, and you may have lots of questions about how we can care for your child safely. So please read the following information to understand the safety measures we have put into place to protect our families and staff during this time.

We would also like to thank you all for your co-operation and understanding during these difficult times, it is greatly appreciated. And we are looking forward to either welcoming you into the setting.



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## **What happens when I am dropping off/collecting my child?**

We are following social distancing guidelines, therefore, please ensure you allow a 2-meter gap from the family that is in-front of you whilst waiting to drop off/collect your child. And also avoid gathering together in a small space which does not allow a 2-meter gap. You can achieve this by following the markings that will be on the floor.

We are asking that only 1 parent drops off/collects your child to help minimise the amount of people who are having contact.

When you bring your child to the setting, please ring the doorbell, and a member of staff will come and greet you and your child, and then take your child into their play room. A staff member will also bring your child to you once you arrive to collect them.

## **How will you maintain social distancing?**

As we all know, children are very eager learners and thrive from playing closely with their friends and practitioners. Because of this, social distancing will not be achievable with young children. However, we will encourage children to keep more distance between them whilst completing activities where possible. Please let us reassure you, that if your child is feeling sad, needs comfort or has hurt themselves, we will continue to comfort your child and give first aid.



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## **How many children will be at nursery with my child?**

Following the governments guidelines, we will be keeping children and staff in the same consistent groups throughout the week. Within these groups, there will always be the same children and same staff. This is to help minimise the amount of people your child comes into contact with whilst at nursery, and to prevent the spread of infection across larger groups of people.

## **Will there be any limitations to the activities my child can play with?**

We want to ensure that whilst your child is at the setting, they are still having lots of fun, and are engaging in learning from the activities and resources available. However, the activities that are available to your child will be different, compared to what was available before the setting closure took place, and these activities and resources will be limited.

This is because, the resources that were available before the setting closed may not be easily cleaned, and therefore will pose as a risk to the spreading of infection, especially when there are multiple children playing with them.

Taking this into consideration, and following the governments guidelines, the following resources will be removed from the nursery to help maintain safety as they cannot be cleaned thoroughly enough in between use;

- Sand,
- Mud,



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- Some hard to clean wooden resources

Play-dough and messy/sensory activities will be provided, however, these will be under close supervision of staff. Dressing up clothes and soft furnishings will be available on a rota system to ensure thorough washing/drying in between uses.

Children will still be able to do painting, gluing, and mark making activities.

We will also be providing free-flow play between indoors and outdoors. For some of our settings where they would normally share their garden space, a rota system for use will be put into place to ensure each group accesses at different times, and cleaning schedules will be created to ensure resources are cleaned in between groups. Research shows us that when children spend a greater amount of time in the outdoors, this positively impacts their emotional wellbeing, and decreases the risk of the spread of infection.

## **How often will the toys at nursery be cleaned?**

We already follow a very robust cleaning procedure in our everyday practice. However, during this time, we will be completing a more intense cleaning procedure. We will be cleaning all resources as and when required, and this will take place at least once a day.

However, if a child puts an object in their mouth, we will ensure this is cleaned thoroughly straight away or placed in the bin.

Where rooms are being used by different groups during the week, the room will also receive a thorough deep clean in-between uses.



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## Can my child bring toys from home to nursery?

We understand that children have comforters to support their emotional wellbeing, and to offer comfort and reassurance. So if you feel your child will need this throughout their nursery session your child can bring this with them. However, we are asking parents to limit this to one item, and any other items from home which are not comforters will not be allowed into nursery to help prevent cross-contamination.

## What will my child eat for their lunch?

Most of our settings are still providing a hot lunch if required. If your child usually brings their own lunch, we are kindly asking that you ensure it is a healthy, well balanced lunch. We are also asking parents to provide this lunch in a plastic container which can be easily cleaned. This is because, many packed lunch boxes are often soft fabric material which can harbor germs and spread infection.

## Can I use public transport to bring my child to the setting? E.g. taxi, bus

We are encouraging parents to bring their child to the setting by using their own personal car, walking, or bike. This is because using public transport will increase the risk of spreading the infection to your family, and our staff.

## What does my child need to bring to nursery?

As we are going to be spending lots of time in the outdoors, during warmer weather please provide your child with a **sunhat, sun cream**



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(which staff will apply, cleaning their hands thoroughly in-between each child), **a change of clothes, and a water bottle**. Don't forget a raincoat and some wellies on the wetter days too! As the weather starts to turn colder, please provide your child with **a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves**. **Please ensure all items are named.**

## How often will my child need to wash their hands?

Washing hands with warm soapy water is a proven way to prevent the spread of infection with Covid-19. Because of this, when a child is entering the setting, they will be supported with washing their hands straight away. Children will also be supported to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, especially before and after meal times and after using the toilet.

## What should my child wear when attending?

Please ensure hygiene is maintained and that children come in with fresh, clean and appropriate clothes for the weather, daily. Children should be bathed or showered after attending the setting. Please also remember it is nursery policy for your child to wear enclosed flat shoes. For health and safety reasons, opened toed sandals are not appropriate in the setting.

## What will happen if my child shows symptoms whilst at the setting?

If your child becomes unwell whilst in our care and shows symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, high temperature, loss of or change in their normal



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sense of taste or smell), we will take your child into a separate room with a member of staff and wait for you to collect them. Staff supporting your child will wear the full relevant PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which will include, gloves, apron, mask, and eye protection if needed.

Once your child has been collected we advise you to call 111 for further advice if your child is under the age of 5. If your child is over the age of 5 it is advised you use the 111 online service. Your child may be entitled to be tested for Covid-19. If your child is tested and the results are negative, your child can return to the setting. However, if your child tests positive, you will need to follow the governments guidelines, and your whole family will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

If a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, then the rest of the children and staff within that group will be sent home, and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The rest of the people within your household, do not need to isolate, unless your child develops symptoms. The setting will then complete a deep-clean of the room to help reduce the risk of passing on the infection to other people.

**It is important that you tell us immediately if your child or anyone in your household has tested positive for Covid-19 so that we can ensure we can implement the correct procedures within our settings.**



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## Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>



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## COVID-19 Parent Agreement

As an organisation YMCA Trinity Group continue to follow the Governments guidelines in response to Covid-19. These guidelines include ensuring we maintain the highest safety and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection with Covid-19. We also need to ensure that the families using our services are aware of and are following the safety measures that are in place. Therefore, we ask you to agree to the following terms.

- I will follow the measures put in place by YMCA Childcare for the arrival and collection of my child, as explained in the returning to setting letter.
- I will follow personal social distancing and the latest Government Guidelines.
- I will notify YMCA Childcare immediately if I, my family or anyone I have been in close contact with develops symptoms of Coronavirus and will attend a testing station at the earliest opportunity. I will contact YMCA Childcare to inform them of the test results.
- I understand that if my child is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus while in setting they will be isolated in a room with a member of staff and I will be expected to collect them immediately.
- I understand that children in attendance at the setting will not be expected to social distance from each other or from members of staff and that they will share toys and spaces as laid out in the returning to setting letter.

YMCA Childcare COVID-19 Parent Agreement			
Child's name:			
I have read, understand and accept the conditions stated above. (please tick)			
Name: Parent / Carer 1	Relationship to child	Signed	Date
Name: Parent / Carer 2	Relationship to child	Signed	Date

**Failure to comply with the above terms may result in withdrawal of your child's place**