

Child Health Policy

Daisy and Rainbow Childcare recognises that for a child to be able to fully access play and learning that both their emotional and physical needs should be met. We seek to get to know the child from the very earliest stages following pre-registration with us. We will ask parents to inform us about their child's character, their home life and their short history. We seek to get a picture of the child's emotional health and their physical health from the parent and then later, once the child starts with us, through our own observations. We achieve open and honest communications with parents by seeking to develop a relationship with them.

Please read our **Wellbeing Policy** which addresses the key strategies we use to support a child's emotional health.

Please read the **safeguarding policy** to better understand how we seek to work with parents to keep the child safe from any extreme concerns regarding either their emotional or physical wellbeing.

Please read the **Diet policy** which addresses the key strategies we use to encourage children to learn about healthy diets which will support their physical wellbeing.

Please see the **Health and Safety policy** which addresses our use of the Spotty Book and the guidance within it to reduce any outbreaks at the setting. This document provides further guidance regarding the management of the environment to reduce the risk of physical injury to children.

Please read the **Movement Policy** which addresses how we encourage children to develop normal physical healthy growth.

The scope of this policy is to focus upon the child's physical health.

Before the child starts with us, we gather information about any diagnosed conditions and/or worries that a parent may have for their child's physical development. These are all discussed fully prior to the child starting with us. This may necessitate communication with other professionals such as OTs, physios, GPs, paediatric professionals. The parents will complete a medical declaration when required and we may support the child's needs to be fully understood by completing a care plan.

When a child has specific and complex physical needs we will work closely under the guidance of a medical practitioner / therapist and will be available to attend meetings as appropriate i.e., Team Around the Family. We will provide parents with any observations to enable them to access appropriate referrals to services.

Once the child starts to attend the setting, we may make our own observations about a child's physical development which we will then share and discuss with parents. We will flag children in our records, complete observations and may then use that to encourage parents to take their child for further specialist medical opinion as we know that we may hypothesise however cannot diagnose.

Oral Health. We recognise that poor dental hygiene in the early years can have a huge negative impact not only at the time, however also for the child's future. Poor dental hygiene may impact a child's ability to chew food properly, to be able to

communicate clearly and to develop sound social networks. Poor communication skills will further impact a child's ability to socialise, play and learn.

We support our children to develop positive dental hygiene by

- Giving all parents a copy of our Dental Hygiene Leaflet
- Putting appropriate links on our website
- Providing all children who access EYPP with gift bags which include toothpaste and a toothbrush
- Providing low sugar snacks and lunches
- Talking with the children at every appropriate opportunity about healthy diet, smiles and tooth care.
- Encouraging children to drink water, and after meals and snacks
- Singing toothbrushing songs – around the mulberry bush
- Engaging Super Sid to share the message at Daisy
- Sharing the Lunch Box leaflet with parents at Daisy
- Using our Giant Teeth for conversation and practise brushing
- Being alert to children who may be classed as overweight and seeking to identify any additional support the family may need.

Some useful supporting information....

- <https://youtu.be/owbp5F0K45c>
- <https://youtu.be/IQE4xxk1r5g>

Policy formulated on: Nov 2021

Policy last reviewed on: _____

Current Review _____

Signed: Marlene Parker