



Health and safety and welfare

Risk assessment – Discover Children’s Story Centre access Coronavirus (COVID-19) – review of assessment

15 September 2021

Discover Children’s Story Centre is co-located with Little Rainbow Nursery (Stratford). This risk assessment addresses those associated with coronavirus in connection with access to the Discover outdoor play at the Stratford nursery and the indoor sessions at Discover. It provides details of the additional measures that can be put in place to control those risks for everyone in Stratford Little Rainbow nursery. This risk assessment should be shared with staff, parents/carers of the children and Discover.

This risk assessment should be read in conjunction with the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the whole setting.

Background

COVID-19 remains a significant risk in the UK. At present children under the age of 12 are not being offered a vaccination. However, children under 12 can both contract and spread the virus. Fortunately younger children are less likely to become infected and also less likely to suffer serious ill-health or death.

Who is at risk

All people in the setting and other people visiting the Discover centre.

Harm

The harm that can result from the virus SARS-CoV-2 is an acute respiratory illness called coronavirus (COVID-19). The initial main symptoms are usually high temperature, a new continuous dry cough (3 or more episodes in 24 hours) and a loss of sense of smell or taste – most people with coronavirus will have at least one of these symptoms. Urgent medical care may be needed as the complications of the illness can result in permanent disabilities or death.

Risk

The illness coronavirus, or COVID-19, (caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2) is a pandemic that represent a significant risk at Little Rainbow nurseries.

The virus is transmitted from one human to another either:

on a respiratory droplet from the mouth of an infected person when they cough or sneeze or breathe out and then breathed in by another person; or

through the transfer of the virus to, and from, the mouth (or eyes) and hands – for example the infected person may transfer the virus by contaminating objects in the environment that are subsequently transferred to the mouth or eyes of a person that is not infected.

Controls

System of controls	Actions
Prevention – minimise contact with individuals who are unwell	Visitors to Discover <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At this time staff at Discover wear either a face mask or visor to protect other people. Adult visitors are asked to wear a face mask but on the day of inspection only about a third appeared to be doing so. All visitors can be contacted if Discover become aware of an infection.2. Social distancing of 2 metres between family and school groups is requested.3. Discover are limiting the number of visitors to facilitate good social distancing.4. Little Rainbow staff and children also follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting.
Prevention - clean hands more often than usual	Hand washing and hygiene rules <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Staff and children will wash their hands before an outdoor play session and also on return to the setting.2. Discover have many hand sanitiser dispensers around the Centre.3. Discover have converted their toilets for “family” use.4. Little Rainbow staff and children also follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting. Food safety <p>No food will be taken into, or consumed, inside the Discover Centre or outside in the play area.</p>
Prevention - ensure good respiratory hygiene	Little Rainbow staff and children follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting.

Prevention – clean touched surfaces frequently	Cleaning and disinfection Metal and plastic horizontal surfaces in the Discover Centre and in the outdoor play area are being cleaned after each 2-hour session throughout the day by Discover staff. Note: sessions start at 10am, 12.30pm and 3pm
Prevention – minimise contact between groups	The risk of aerosol and surface infection is greatly reduced out of doors however the risks of very close contact and touch remain. 1. Little Rainbow use the outdoor play area mainly at times that none, or few, other visitors are using it. 2. Little Rainbow staff and children will minimise close contact with other visitors by maintaining a safe social distance at all times. 3. Little Rainbow staff and children also follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting.
Response to infection – initial engagement with official bodies	The nursery will be notified of any incidences where visitors are subsequently tested and found to have been infectious at the time of visiting Discover or had contact with an infected person. Little Rainbow staff and children follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting. Little Rainbow will give Discover full details of any incidents of infection in the setting.
Response to infection - manage confirmed cases of COVID-19	Little Rainbow staff and children follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting.
Response to infection - containment	Little Rainbow staff and children follow the guidance provided in the more general risk assessment of COVID-19 for the nursery setting.

This document is based on UK government advice as at 15 September 2021 and site visit on the same day. The document was prepared by Michael Diamond