**Infection Control / Hygiene Policy**

It is vitally important to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. I use the following procedures and ensure that they are strictly adhered to.

* Children must wash their hands after going to the toilet, playing outside or touching animals. They must also wash their hands before eating any meals or snacks.
* I help children to wash and dry their hands correctly and regularly talk to them about why it is important to prevent the spread of germs and infection.
* I provide liquid soap and facecloths to use as a single use towel in the downstairs toilet to enable children, staff and visitors to wash and dry their hands properly. After the facecloth has been used they are placed into the bin under the sink. I empty the bin daily, and wash the facecloths so they can be used again.
* I will help children to wipe and blow their noses when they have colds and teach them the importance of throwing away dirty tissues to prevent the spread of germs. I will also encourage them to cover their mouths when they cough.
* I use a designated area to change nappies which is away from where children may be playing. As well as for hygiene purposes, this also respects the privacy of the child being changed. I use disposable gloves and a wipeable apron when changing nappies. I disinfect my changing mat and apron after each nappy change using antibacterial and antiviral clinical wipes. Nappies are double wrapped and disposed of in the bin next to the changing table. Please refer to my **Nappy Changing and Toilet Training Policy** for further information.
* Potties are emptied immediately after use down the toilet. Potties and trainer seats are thoroughly cleaned after each use with using antibacterial and antiviral clinical wipes.
* I follow strict hygiene routines in my kitchen, ensuring my fridge is at the correct temperature and that food is stored correctly in it. I follow advice from the Food Standards Agency and have completed their Safer Food Better Business for Childminders Pack. Please refer to my **Food Safety Policy** for further details of how I ensure safe and healthy practices are followed regarding the storage, preparation, handling and serving of food within my setting.
* I use a monthly cleaning schedule to ensure equipment and toys are cleaned and maintained regularly. I use antibacterial and antiviral clinical wipes to clean equipment and toys. Material or fabric items such as car seat covers are washed regularly in the washing machine.
* As detailed in my **Illness Policy**, I request that children who are unwell are kept at home. Children must not attend my setting if they are displaying symptoms of a possible communicable disease, contagious condition or have been suffering from a fever, sickness or diarrhoea within the last 48 hours.
* I provide all parents with information regarding my procedures on hygiene, infection control, illness and food safety.

In order for me to carry out these procedures effectively I will need you to provide me with enough resources, for example nappies, labelled cream and spare clothes. I also request that you let me know if your child is feeling or has been unwell.

**Review and Monitoring**

* This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with Care Inspectorate Wales requirements and food safety best practices.
* Updates are communicated to parents and staff as necessary.

This policy was designed by Little Rosebuds with regard to the following legislation.

**The National Minimum Standards for regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years**

* Standard 10: Healthcare
* Standard 12: Food and Drink
* Standard 22: Environment
* Standard 24: Safety

**Infection, Prevention and Control for Childcare Settings (0-5 years)** (Public Health Wales)

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| Date this document was last updated – | 25/04/25 – created a new policy for hygiene |
| Dates reviewed – | ~~25/04/25~~, 16/06/25 |
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