

## Information for parents and carers

The government is now encouraging all eligible children to attend and it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can.

Demand for childcare is likely to be lower than usual at first. But in some cases, it may be necessary for providers to introduce a temporary cap on numbers to ensure that safety is prioritised.

Early Years Settings will have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups (vulnerable children and children of critical workers) and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

- 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
- From 1 June 2020, childminders can look after children of all ages, in line with usual limits on the number of children they can care for.
- While safety will always be our first priority, as children and young people return to early years settings, there will be a clear focus on supporting families to re-establish routines. The physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of children will also be prioritised within settings.

Some of the steps Early Years Settings may ask your help with in preparation for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.

## Further guidance and support

- [supporting guidance on protective measures which should be implemented in education settings](#)
- [guidance for parents and carers](#)