

# The Oak Treehouse, Shepshed

**The Oak Treehouse in Shepshed have supported children to return safely to their provision whilst remaining open for key worker children. They have introduced a strict cleaning regime, regular handwashing, and encouraged children to spend as much time outdoors as possible, including mealtimes.**

In June, when the setting was able to open for more families they wanted to ensure that the children returning knew what to expect. A child friendly video was sent to all parents who were then able to share it with their children, this helped children to settle and to understand the new routines. This also helped parents who understandably were worried about their child's safety.

The setting have been hugely successful in welcoming children back and they have even had some new children join them. They have prioritised the children's wellbeing and this has meant that the children have adapted well to the new routines and processes. Where Children needed longer periods to settle, they have been working closely with parents to ensure this is successful. They have found ways to continue to use favourite resources in a safe way and have put toys into the dishwasher and then quarantining them afterwards. They are constantly adapting but ensuring that the children have the best experience possible and are enjoying being back in the setting with their friends.

When the children were able to go back to childcare, we were really tentative. They were happy at home, playing, however we were trying to work at the same time and we felt they were missing out on our time.

Our childminder contacted us to see what our plans were and we really didn't know. We wanted them to be safe, we didn't know what they would be able to do at the childminders and whether they would be able to have fun with all the restrictions. We also wanted to keep our childminder safe.

We called our childminder and discussed the options. She was happy to have them back and we both discussed the precautions we had been taking at home, it seemed that both families were being very careful and not mixing with others. Our childminder shared her new policy and procedure and this gave us the confidence that she had taken a lot into consideration.

We decided that they would return. The first day was so lovely, they had a wonderful time and couldn't wait to go back the next time. For us, it meant we could work more productively and not feel guilty that we weren't giving them enough attention. When they returned home that day, we were able to spend some quality time with them. We even enjoyed a hot coffee in the daytime!



The best thing we did was have an honest and open discussion, we agreed to share any concerns and this gave us a lot of trust and helped us to feel at ease.