



## Nurture Childcare, Reopening after COVID19

Nurture Childcare always tries to operate with its people at the core of our success. When we were given the dates that we could re-open, we knew we would aim for the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

***“I just believe it was great going back to what we love!” - Sarah, Ennis***

***“Having the children come running in the door, being able to hug each other and enjoy playing with each other again.” - Karen, Tallaght***

We had a number of reasons for reopening but the main ones were:

1. Slow start for all staff and children would work better

***“Glad we opened on a staged basis rather than in September (much better to start in a quieter way than full capacity)” - Laura Jane, Marlborough Street***

2. Allow parents to ease back to childcare
3. We would have two months to tweak and change things as they cropped up or to bring in different ideas and protocols, if required

Having spoken to my staff, everyone seemed very happy to return on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

***“We are delighted to see everyone, and that their extended families are all well and healthy.” - Irene, Douglas***

We have had a few staff who have stayed out for reasons such as pregnancy, health and returning back to their home country. All reasons very justified under the current circumstances.

Prior to the re-opening we had three weeks to organise the rooms and rosters and get everyone up to speed on the new “rules” that we would be implementing. Again, everyone was on-board and seemed excited to get back to the children and routines. Communication throughout the lockdown was very important and this continues using, Whatsapp, email and phonecalls.

## THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

We were not overly concerned about the children and the day-to-day once we had everyone in the centres. We knew once we got everyone into their rooms it would be just like any normal day. Games, outdoor play, chats and love, and of course food and meals 😊 A very important part of all our children’s day!!

***“I am amazed at how fast the kids have settled back into their routine and how the parents are following the new guidelines.” - Jackie, Blackrock***

The drop-off and collection procedures are a new side to our business, as we have always enjoyed the parents coming into the rooms, and the chats and banter. This is different now, but in some ways is working a little better in how we can manage our time.

***“Drop off and collections at the door are working so much better. Seems to be less stress on both children and parents. Children have adapted very quickly to the new routine and there seems to be less tears especially at drop off” - Jenny, Fairylawn***

Once the children arrived at the door, they were thrilled to be back in. We had a couple with tears but that is all part of our day anyway and we had explained before our reopening that this may happen.

***“We have had some parents concerned about their child’s well being (emotionally) since the crèche closed in March and had been asking for help during lockdown. After 3 weeks of socializing with their peers these children are so much happier and have better routines etc at home. Parents have said there are massive improvements in the child’s emotional well being which is fantastic and just goes to show how important the early years setting is to these kids.” - Jenny, Fairylawn***

## **TRAINING**

One of the real positives for us was the amount of online training that was provided. It gave our staff an outlet while we were closed, but also meant that we could organise training for the re-opening and everyone was well-adapted to online learning. We feel it is a new approach for us and is working very well. We now conduct our first stage interview process through Skype which is helping with our time management in our centres.

***“Also that the different organisations are still giving us free webinars, videos and information to up skill on CPD.” - Sarah, Ennis***

## **MANAGEMENT**

When we were first told of the lockdown, we were all very nervous of what was ahead. As the owner, I had myself convinced it was for a couple of weeks and I would be heading to France in July. It wasn’t meant to be, but the one thing we made a decision about was that we would maintain our team at all times, for as long as we could. This gave our team huge security and the constant communication helped too.

***“Also I think that our employers (Directors) should be acknowledged and our appreciation shown for their help and support during the lockdown and that we all had our jobs to return to on the 29th June 2020.” - Irene, Douglas***

## **CENTRES**

The one thing we wanted to achieve as a team was that the children were familiar with their rooms, staff, and friends and that meant that we made simple changes. These are more visible to the adults than the children which is what we wanted to achieve. Unfortunately, our children are experiencing something that we never thought we would go through, but consistency is the key and thankfully we have been able to provide it since we re-opened.

## **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

For me, the support has been so welcome, and I really feel it has helped us to keep Nurture viable and keep 100+ staff in employment. As with anything, it’s very easy to criticise with hindsight, but having been through very difficult situations prior to COVID19, we are extremely appreciative of everything we have been given in regards to the financial support but also having people to listen when I contact them.

To conclude, re-opening was a “no-brainer”. Something we always wanted to do, and the guidelines and advice have been great. We are delighted to be back up and running.

**Ciara and all the Team, Nurture Childcare**







Classroom 3

PLEASE SMETRE  
YOUR HANDS

PLEASE KEEP A  
SAFE DISTANCE  
2 METRES APART



