Advice during COVID-19 - Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare

Drop off and Collection

Drop off and Collection:

- Providers should consider what works best for their own setting to meet the needs of the children attending.
- Options may include staggered drop off/collections, demarcated awaiting areas or waiting in cars for collection.
- Measures should ensure social distancing between parents/ guardians and staff/Childminder.
- To reduce the likelihood of gatherings at entrances child-friendly social distancing marking should be in place.
- Face coverings for adults are recommended where it is not possible to keep a distance of 2 metres at drop off/collection times.
- Handwashing should happen immediately upon arrival and leaving the service.
- Where it is considered necessary for a parent/guardian to enter the service, e.g. to help settle in a new child, social distancing should be observed as far as possible.
- Communicate the changes in drop-off and collection to families in advance so they know what to expect.

Think about children's needs and use of outdoor area.

Service Transportation:

- Collection/drop off by the service should only be provided to children who are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- Cloth face coverings/visors should be worn by the driver where not a barrier to care of or communication with the children.
- Surfaces should be wiped between uses and supplies of tissues, sanitiser and wipes should be available in the vehicle.
- Hand hygiene should be observed by the driver and the children.
- Where practical children from the same play-pod or family should be seated together.
- Children should enter and leave the vehicle one at a time and in an organised manner.

Think about play-pods and cleaning schedules.

Examples

(other scenarios can apply)

Little Ladybirds;

a full day service catering for 65 children aged birth-6 years developed a staggered arrival and collection time.

An allocated time was discussed with parents before re-opening. An assigned member of staff from each room is at the front door at these times. In the morning, this staff member brings each child to their play-pod and will bring them from their play-pod to their parent/guardian when they are collected.

Little explorers;

a sessional service has one room and caters for 22 children aged 2-6 years. A designated waiting area has been set up outside with child friendly social distancing markings for parents and children to follow at collection and drop off times. Parents may also wait in their car and the practitioner will bring the child into the service.





