



# Spinney Pre-School Skin Care Policy

## **Skin Care - What you need to know (Guidance for Staff)**

### **Introduction**

The main function of the skin is as a barrier and this is dependent upon the skin remaining intact. Broken skin increases the risk of infection. Both irritation and an allergy can appear as a rash but can vary considerably in severity from a mild irritation, dryness and/or reddening to acute blistering and swelling of the skin. Staff with pre-existing skin conditions may be particularly susceptible to skin problems. The skin provides a natural protection for the body as long as it is not damaged by cuts, injury or subjected to irritation by such everyday substances as water or cleaning products. Because of this the skin must be cared for and protected from irritants both at home and in the work place. The greatest of care needs to be taken with the parts of the body where the skin is most often exposed. Staff with sensitive skin or pre-existing skin conditions such as eczema/dermatitis etc need to take special care of their skin. If recognised and treated early many skin problems can be cured. Left untreated they soon become serious. If you notice problems with your skin such as: - reddening, swelling, very dry skin or rashes, please inform another member of staff immediately.

### **Statement of intent**

Spinney Pre School will try to prevent or minimise the risk of staff developing a skin or other condition as a result of their work by: -

- Increasing the awareness of staff to the importance of good skin care.
- Provide guidance, information and advice on practices or measures that promote good skin care and reduce the risk of developing or worsening of a skin disorder.
- Promote consistency in the selection, use of and provision of gloves.

### **Responsibilities**

The Supervisor has the responsibility for infection prevention, health and safety and the welfare within the Pre School of both Staff and the Children. Therefore they have been delegated the responsibility for:

- undertaking a risk assessment and identifying people who have a history of existing skin conditions particularly eczema/dermatitis or who have known allergies
- the reporting of notifiable diseases as specified under 'Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations' (RIDDOR).
- effective hand washing procedure and technique.
- the selection and use of gloves to prevent the spread of infection.
- any notices on proper hand washing techniques and good skin care practices are displayed near hand washing facilities, where appropriate.

### **Staff will ensure that they:**

- comply with this policy.
- apply good skin care practices and techniques.
- apply safe systems of work as identified through assessments.
- wear the appropriate gloves if required.
- inform another member of staff immediately of any skin problem, however minor, being experienced.

### **Creams**

After washing and drying your hands an emollient cream should be used. This should also be used at home.

## **Gloves**

The types of glove to be worn will have been determined by a risk assessment of the activity. Over-use of gloves can also cause as many problems as under use. Gloves should only be worn when identified by a risk assessment as being needed:

- For the specific task they have been provided for
- By the person they were issued to
- For the shortest possible periods of time.

### **When using gloves consider the following: -**

- Individual needs of the member of staff.
- Work environment, e.g. If washing up is done in a sink with warm water, the gloves required should have long cuffs and cotton liners or lint free lined gloves.
- Tasks being undertaken.
- Nature of the skin condition. E.g. may have to wear Nitrile Gloves.

**This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed on behalf of the Pre-School \_\_\_\_\_**