

# **Additional Safeguarding actions taken throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic**

## **First National Lockdown – March 2020**

Closed the setting on 20/03/21 until 07/09/20

When we closed we only had two children of keyworkers who required childcare, therefore it was not financially viable for us to remain open.

With parents consent, we contacted a local nursery and secured places for both children.

During the lockdown another parent admitted to us she was struggling and her mental health was suffering so we helped to secure a place at alternative nursery for her child also.

We kept in regular contact with SfYC throughout the lockdown to ensure we were doing all we could, especially in the beginning when we were finding alternative childcare for the two keyworker children.

No vulnerable children were identified at this time.

We phoned all parents regularly and kept the preschool phone on during our usual working hours to ensure we were always available should parents wish to contact us.

We gave website addresses/advice line numbers to parents so they had contact details should they need support.

We added a weekly activity suggestion post to Tapestry and encouraged parents to post photos and observations on their child's account for us to see.

Staff posted observations on Tapestry of things they were doing for the children to see.

Staff posted things on our Facebook page.

We sent all children a postcard to let them know we were thinking of them and to thank them for staying home and helping to keep everyone safe.

We held regular zoom meetings to check on the wellbeing of staff and communicated with each other most days via our staff whatsapp group.

## **Actions taken throughout Lockdown 05/01/21-08/03/21 (when schools were closed but Early Years remained open)**

### **Actions taken for children not attending due to parental choice:**

All parents were emailed on 11/01/21 and asked to confirm if they intended on sending children back after the lockdown, all confirmed that they were.

Parents were telephoned regularly throughout the lockdown to check that the children and their families were coping ok, to see if we could help in any way and to address any concerns or worries the parents may have.

Parents were offered the opportunity to return their child to preschool at any time they wished, all we requested was a small amount of notice to allow us to ensure that ratios could be met.

Parents were emailed again on 05/02/21 asking what they intended to do with regard to when they wished to send their children back, all parents responded saying they wanted to wait until the schools reopened.

We regularly posted links and suggested activities on Tapestry and on our Facebook page.

We hand delivered activity packs that we had created to all of our children who were not attending.

### **Actions taken for children attending throughout the lockdown:**

Opening hours were reduced due to staff shortages and to ensure an appropriate amount of children attended each day to cover financial outlay and to ensure interactions between children could take place rather than children attend alone. These opening hours were decided on a weekly basis to ensure everyone's individual requirements were met.

We opened a minimum of three days a week to ensure that all 15 hour funded children could attend their full universal hours.

We ensured any vulnerable children were able to attend their usual allocated amount of hours.

We consulted weekly with our working parents, and parents of any child entitled to attend 30 hours, to ensure we were open for the hours they requested.

All parents, working or not, were consulted initially to ensure they were happy for us to open less hours throughout lockdown and all were happy with the arrangement.

We spoke to our attending parents each day and made them aware that if they needed support of any kind we were there for them. **We are all in this together!**