

HIV & AIDS POLICY

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safeguarding and promoting welfare, environment and equipment, Documentation.

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The provider must promote the good health of the children.

POLICY STATEMENT

Our aim, at St Eval Pre-school, is to promote inclusive practice for all children aged between two and five years. Our health and hygiene practices reflect our intent to continuously minimise the risk of cross infection from any source. We aim to provide clear facts about conditions such as HIV and AIDS to prevent incidences of prejudice and fear, thus promoting equal opportunities for all.

The Facts

What is meant by HIV and AIDS?

AIDS stands for 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome'. It is a condition in which the body's natural defences are severely damaged by infection with a virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). It is only possible to have AIDS if you are already HIV positive. AIDS is not one illness; it is a syndrome of about thirty different conditions. Some people may be infected with the HIV virus for many years without developing AIDS. Others will display AIDS fairly quickly after infection. There are no statistics to state categorically how many people infected with HIV develop AIDS.

How do people get HIV or AIDS?

HIV is found in bodily fluids, especially blood, semen and vaginal fluids. It lives only very briefly outside the body. It is spread by an infected person through sexual intercourse, sharing needles and/or syringes used to inject drugs, from an infected pregnant mother to her baby during or before birth, or very rarely through breast feeding. Tears, sweat and saliva only contain minimal traces of the virus. The HIV virus cannot be passed on by using the same lavatory, sharing cups or cutlery, touching or kissing an infected person.

How can you tell if someone carries the HIV virus?

The simple answer is that you cannot tell. Many people may live their lives completely oblivious to the fact that they carry the HIV virus. There is a test that can detect the presence of antibodies (the HIV Antibody Test), but it takes time for antibodies to develop and the virus will not show up until about three months after infection. Babies born to mothers with HIV will react positively to the test. However, this result simply indicates their mother's infection. Only 1 in 4 babies remain HIV positive once they have shed their mother's antibodies and developed their own at around 18 months to 2 years old.

How can we stop the virus spreading?

The virus is relatively weak and can only live outside of the body for a short period of time. It is killed by the use of disinfectant. Normal hygiene practice and precautions should reduce any risk there might be. The virus can only spread in the very specific circumstances mentioned above.

Inclusive Practice

St Eval Pre-school will not exclude any child or adult from attending the setting due to HIV or AIDS infection. We promote equal opportunities for all, and we are committed to supporting all persons involved with the Pre-school who is affected by HIV or AIDS, whether staff members, children and/or their families.

All adults working in the Pre-school will be made aware of the risks of cross-infection that may result in the spread of any infection. Appropriate precautions will be taken to minimise these risks. Staff will be encouraged to attend relevant training courses should the need arise.

Confidentiality

Any information shared with the Pre-school Supervisor, staff member or committee member, with regard to HIV or AIDS, will be treated with complete confidentiality and will only be passed on to other parties on a 'need to know' basis. All staff members adhere to our Confidentiality Policy.

Further Information:

NHS Direct

Free helpline offering information on all health issues

Helpline: 08457 4647

Website: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust

Practical support, help, counselling and advice for anyone with, or concerned about, AIDS and HIV infection.

Helpline: 0845 122 1200

Email: info@tht.org.uk

Website: www.tht.org.uk

Sexual Health Line

Information and advice on sexual health, HIV, contraception and local services.

Tel: 0800 567123

Website: www.playingsafely.co.uk

National Aids Helpline:

Tel: 0800 567 123

Website: www.nat.org.uk

Local HIV/AIDS Service Organisations

- Bodmin Kernow Positive Support: 01208 264 866
- Plymouth The Eddystone Trust: 01752 257077
- Truro Kernow Positive Support Helpline: 01208 264866

This policy is reviewed annually, next review date: February

APPROVAL

Signature:

Name & Position: Rachael Richards –
Manager

Date:

AGREED

Signature:

Name & Position: On behalf of the
Committee

Date:

