

Preparing children and families for re-opening

By Avril Stanley

‘We made a cake with wiggly worms and hairy spiders for you’ were the magical words two excited children, with their mischievous smiles, were shouting as they approached me with a cake made from sand, pinecones and sticks. Yes, we have reopened our service and hearing the chatter and laughter of the pre-school/after school is music to our ears.

Open, two-way, and clear communication between management, directors, the team and parents, from the onset, was the key ingredient to enable us to reopen. On-going team meetings prior to opening allowed us to voice concerns and work through the guidelines. New Covid 19 policies, cleaning schedules and checklists were developed, toys were cleaned, and hand sanitising stations were established. A deep clean and sanitization of the service was conducted. Induction training and Return-To-Work forms, to name a few, were completed.

Social distance for pick up and drop off outside our service



Entrance to our hallway, Covid 19 information



How to Handrub?

FLUSH HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE: WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

20 Duration of the entire procedure: 30-50 seconds

- 1a

Always 10 seconds on the back (left) and 10 seconds on the other face.
- 1b
- 2

10-15 seconds (palm on palm)
- 3

Repeat on other side (back of right hand with palm of left hand).
- 4

10 seconds (palm with fingers, heel to heel)
- 5

Repeat on other side (heel of right hand with palm of left hand).
- 6

Repeat on other side (thumb against palm).
- 7

Repeat on other side (index and middle fingers against palm).
- 8

Repeat on other side (ring and little fingers against palm).

SAVE LIVES
SAVE YOURSELF

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New Documents for parents and staff

[illegible]

Play Pod 1 classroom



Outside area



Play Pod 2



While there were many challenges along the way, our collaborative approach and following the Covid 19 Health and Safety and Tusla Self-Assessment Checklists has enabled us to reopen. Any anxieties, parents and our team may have had about reopening quickly vanished as the children came bouncing back into the service on the first day.