

Sterilization policy:

NHS Health guidance

All bottles, dummies and feeding utensils for all children under the age of 12 months will be sterilized on a daily basis using Milton / similar sterilization fluid.

Babies who are not yet mobile will have their own individual treasure basket, the contents of which should be clean and sterile at the start of the day and should be for sole use only.

Until the child is sitting up, these toys should be offered during tummy time and during other play times. Once the child is sitting, they may sit near their treasure basket to encourage them to reach for and choose toys.

Practitioners should be particularly aware of toys which are for our youngest children - If another child takes a toy – swap it for something else of interest and then it should be wiped and then put back into the sterilizer for a minimum of 15 minutes before being returned to the basket. Some wooden sensory items in treasure baskets may not appreciate full submersion, so instead they must be wiped with Milton solution using disposable blue role.

Bottles, spoons and bowls will be washed in hot soapy water before being rinsed and then fully submerged in Milton / similar sterilization fluid for a minimum of 15 minutes between each use.

All toys will be regularly cleaned - particularly those which are small enough to be mouthed, by either wiping them with disposable blue rolle, which has been soaked in Milton sterilizing solution (if large toys) or by wiping and then submerging in solution for ten minutes.

During periods of rest, when children are sleeping, it should be routine for the Infant Community team to wipe and clean toys using blue roll and Milton sterilizing fluid. If the room is empty then commercial antibacterial sprays may be used – but please be aware that these may cause irritation to breathing if used excessively.

The above routine should be fully embedded to aid the reduction of illness, particularly tummy bugs.

Policy Written: 15/11/17 to be reviewed 14/11/18 if not earlier.