



TicTots Day Nursery, within Total Fitness, West Strand Rd, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8UY
TicTots Day Nursery, Ainsdale Drive, Ashton, Lancashire PR2 1TU
TicTots Day Nursery, within Total Fitness, Waters Meeting Rd, Bolton BL1 8TT

Preston office: **01772 395 727**

Bolton office: **01204 381 577**

26th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open TicTots Day Nursery from 1 June, 2020.

Thank you!

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 23rd March 2020. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

I am pleased to let you know that, further to the government's announcement that early years and childcare providers will open from 1 June (subject to scientific advice), we are working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back all children. We will open to more children only if the government confirms that their five key tests justify taking this step.

Which children can attend from 1 June?

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 23rd March 2020 and have been operating with smaller group sizes and additional hygiene and infection control measures. We will remain open for them until wider opening is confirmed.

The government is now encouraging **all eligible children to attend**, and it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can. Please do contact us if you would like your child to take up their place.

From the week beginning 1 June, early years and childcare providers will welcome back all children, if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time.



For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend their early years setting. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

Protective measures we are taking due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- ❖ Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- ❖ Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- ❖ Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly.
- ❖ Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- ❖ Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table-tops, door handles and play equipment.
- ❖ Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- ❖ Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.



What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the setting.

Importantly, please do not bring your child to nursery if they are not in great health – this means if they have a sore throat, cough, cold or any other illness that will compromise the immunity and resilience of the other people, children and staff at the setting. We will no longer sign in medicine or liquid paracetamol. This alone will help us maintain our safe and sterile bubble.

If we have a suspected coronavirus case in the setting, when a child develops symptoms while they are with us, we will contact you and you will need to **immediately collect your child**. Your child will be separated from the other children and we will contact you for immediate action.

If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have [symptoms](#) of coronavirus (COVID-19), then you must stay at home for at least 7 days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

For anyone else in the household who starts displaying [symptoms](#), they need to stay at home for at least 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

Do not alarm the children

Obviously, we are seeking to keep things as 'normal' as possible, we are talking about germs rather than death and we are making the measures we are putting in place as routine as possible.

We will be operating in strict small groups and spacing ourselves out as much as possible while playing our 'helicopter' game and indicating to children where they can play and how many at a time. We will plan activities throughout the initial period that majority of children return about self-care and help them to think about taking care of themselves and keeping safe.



Testing

Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Further guidance is available about [getting tested](#).

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 1 June. We are looking forward to welcoming your child[ren] back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thompson".

Deborah Thompson,

Nursery Manager