

TICK POLICY



Purpose

With increased outdoor learning and activities, there is a possibility that staff and children may be bitten by ticks if outdoors in grassy or woodland type areas at certain times of the year. This information outlines Liberty Kids' approach to managing this.

Overview

- Parents will ensure their child is wearing appropriate clothing e.g. long trouser and long-sleeved tops.
- At the start of Spring, Liberty Kids will issue a PDF Leaflet Tick Guidance link & Tick Policy on our PIG page and/or WhatsApp group with the advice information below:

“Early Learning and Childcare - Advice for Parents Regarding Ticks

Ticks occur naturally in Scotland and therefore will be present in some of the outdoor locations that the Nursery uses. Not all tick bites result in a person becoming ill. Some can carry a range of bacteria which can be harmful to humans. The Media has been seeking to raise awareness with regards to Lyme Disease. We assure you that our staff will be vigilant and if they see a tick on your child they will remove it using the correct procedure. It is important that you regularly check your child for ticks. Please refer to the LDA leaflet for further guidance. Should you need a copy of the leaflet or have any concerns please talk to a member of Nursery staff.”

- Staff should also issue parents a copy of the nursery policy and a copy of a leaflet from Lyme Disease Action called “Ticks and Lyme Disease (A002-7 web).
- Any ticks should be reported to parents via phone call / upon collection of the child and must be recorded on an Incident or Minor Accident Form.

Tick Policy/Ticks and Lyme Disease

The Nursery tick policy is intended to clarify for parents/carers the nursery's precautions for prevention of tick contact, and if this contact does occur, what we would do.

Awareness and Prevention

Liberty Kids will share the Tick Policy and Tick Information Leaflet and advice notice with parents in Springtime.

More information can be found on www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk

<https://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LDA002-9-web.pdf>

- Removal of a tick within 24-36 hours of attachment can help prevent disease transmission.
- Parents must check children's skin and clothing for any ticks.

Children will be given age appropriate information about ticks and methods of prevention and prior to their first trip into woodland/outdoor areas. I.e. why we wear clothing to cover us up.

- Children should wear hats or bandanas and appropriate outdoor clothing, such as long sleeves and trousers and socks.

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- Children should wear shoes, trainers or boots/wellies during outdoor activities.
- Children will be asked to tuck trousers into socks.
- Light coloured clothing is helpful to help staff see if ticks are present.

Repellent

- If parents wish to have their child sprayed with repellent, it must be applied prior to the session by the parent/carer.
- The repellent can be topped in session if needed, please send in a bottle, labelled with the child's name, to be kept at nursery for this purpose. Staff will supervise application of repellent.

Tick Check

After time spent outdoors in the woods or in a field area, staff will do a short tick checks on visible skin areas and clothing. Obviously, ticks are extremely small and can go unnoticed, so parents are responsible for regular tick checks at home.

Tick Removal

At nursery, if a tick is discovered attached to the child's skin, a first aid trained staff member will remove it promptly and discard.

We will:

- Use a tick removal instrument to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure (or twist if this is the recommended method for the particular tick extractor).

If a tick is removed, the parent will be notified either via phone call or when they collect the child and an Accident/Incident Report completed.

Parents are asked to advise the nursery if they discover a tick immediately following a nursery session, so staff can monitor the number of ticks and assess if there is a need to change play areas. Please email notification to info@libertykids.co.uk

If a parent does not want ticks to be removed from their child as described above, they must notify the Nursery Manager in writing as a matter of urgency on receipt of the Tick Policy. Please email notification to info@libertykids.co.uk

Nursery Recording

Where relevant staff will use the Tick Numbers Form to record the instances when ticks are found. The Nursery Manager will monitor this regularly to assess whether the current outdoor locations need to be changed.