

Adapting Environments

To support the implementation of public health guidelines it may be necessary to consider some adaptations to both the setting environment and practice. It is important to ensure that any adaptations remain child-centred. Below are some ideas which have been shared by settings across Ireland.

Key elements are:

Handwashing regularly:



Hand sanitising facilities at entrance.



Hand sanitising stations throughout the service.



Outdoor hand washing facilities.

Keeping our distance:



Child-friendly social distancing markings.



Staff facilities that support social distancing.



Designated isolation room(s) if needed.



'Hug, kiss, high five' zone, - safe handover from parents to reassure parents and children.

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Operate play-pods:



Separate entrance and exits for different play-pods.



Separating spaces to facilitate play-pods.

Making outdoors work:



Spaces to rest and relax outdoors.



Outdoor dining.



Use appropriate clothing.



Sheltered areas outdoors.

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Think abouts for adapting environments during COVID-19:

- Review outdoor spaces in tandem with indoor space to ensure a good relationship between indoors and outdoors and to ensure children have direct access to the outdoors.
- Further developing transitional spaces, where indoor and outdoor spaces relate to each other and provide a third space, e.g., doors that can be kept open and routines that allow for free movement between inside and outside spaces.
- Providing shelters in adverse weather - natural shelter, temporary or permanent coverings.
- Providing outdoor sand pits and active play opportunities that do not involve equipment.
- Providing appropriate outdoor clothing for the children

For further information on developing indoor or outdoor spaces see adapting environments for practice.

