



A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO OUTDOOR PLAY-BASED LEARNING HANDWASHING

Handwashing in the outdoors

There are lots of ways of providing handwashing facilities in the outdoors – some offer a budget solution, some require a little more investment. Working out how many stations, and what type, will go some way to helping you meet the latest guidance and help to control infection, germs and viruses.

Questions for you and your team to help work out what is best for you and your site

How many stations will you need?

- How many children are in your setting?
- How big is your space/setting?
- What is your policy for handwashing?
- How many times a day are you aiming to do handwashing as a minimum?
- Will you have designated stations for certain areas?
- Will you have enough handwashing stations for times when everyone needs/wants to wash their hands?



What equipment will you need?

As a minimum you will need soap, running water and something for children to dry their hands on. Hand sanitiser alone will not suffice to wash off the dirt

and germs that can spread tummy bugs, even if it is effective on bacteria and viruses.

- Do you have access to running water to refill your sinks/reservoirs or will you need to carry water to your site?
- Can you refill regularly enough with warm water or will you need to insulate your containers to keep the water warm?
- Do you have surfaces to place sinks on or will you hang water delivery systems from lines/trees/fences?
- Will you collect the water that runs off or let it run onto the ground?



Photo credit [Creative Star](#)

How will you dry your hands?

Whichever way you choose this should be a single-use system that is either disposable or washable. Popular choices are paper towels or single-use handtowels (flannels) that you can wash in a washing machine?

- Do you have an appropriate way for children to retrieve a single towel without wasting too much paper and then to dispose of?
- Do you have somewhere to store flannels/mini towels prior to washing?

Popular Equipment Choices



Kiddiwash sinks

Insulated and collect the wastewater so you don't end up with puddles or need an additional container. Can sit on a table or on the ground.

£££ Higher end price point

Igloo

Insulated and holds a large volume of water. No collection point is needed. Needs to be sited on a raised surface so the tap can overhang. Ideally a container underneath to collect the run-off or a very muddy puddle will result!

££ Medium Cost



Spatap



Ingenious device that attaches to any bottle, instantly converting it to an easy-release 'hand-shower'. Size of bottle is limited so may need regular refilling. The bottle is not insulated. System requires hanging and height needs to be child-friendly so may depend on environment. Can be refilled from an insulated

water container: water container + bubble wrap = insulated water container.

£ Low Cost

DIY

Any used drinks bottle (or empty lidded milk carton) with holes pierced in the lid. Turn upside down to create 'hand shower'. To preserve water, may need assistance to use (adult turns 'tap' over for child). Bottle(s) can be wrapped in bubble wrap for insulation, excellent way of reusing waste items.

Free!



Useful links

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-fully-outdoor-childcare-providers-guidance/pages/further-information/>

<https://creativestarning.co.uk/early-years-outdoors/hand-hygiene-outdoors/>

<https://kiddiwash.com>

<https://www.igloocoolers.co.uk/drinkware/water-dispensers/>

<https://spatap.com>

<https://muddyfaces.co.uk/product/igloo-400-series-water-dispenser/>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/hand-hygiene/>