



1.19 Face painting, mehndi and temporary tattoos

Children are face painted only if parents have given prior written consent. Verbal consent is fine at events where parents/carers are present.

- A child who does not want to have their face painted will not be made to continue.
- Children under two years of age are generally not fully face painted, however a nose and whiskers (or similar) is fine. Having an arm or hand painted with a flower, star or butterfly is also an option for very young children who may not sit still.
- Children with open sores, rashes or other skin conditions are not painted.
- Glitter based face paints are not used on children under two years of age.
- Members of staff/committee painting children's faces wash their hands before doing so, cover any cuts or abrasions and ensure they have the equipment they need close to hand.
- Only products with ingredients compliant with EU and FDA regulations for skin contact are used.
- Clean water is used to wash brushes and sponges between children. Ideally a sponge is used once only before being machine washed on a hot cycle.
- Staff/committee face painting at an event ensure they have a comfortable chair or shoes if standing, to reduce the risk of back or neck strain. Face painting is an activity that can cause repetitive stress injuries; therefore, regular breaks are not taken at events such as fetes.

Mehndi painting

- Staff never mehndi paint children at the setting using henna/henna-based products.

Temporary tattoos

- Temporary tattoos are only applied to children if prior written parental consent has been obtained. Verbal consent is acceptable at events where parents are present.
- Children are not given temporary tattoos if they express reluctance or discomfort.
- Only skin-safe, non-toxic tattoo products that comply with EU and FDA safety regulations are used.
- Children with open wounds, rashes, allergies to adhesives, or other skin sensitivities do not receive temporary tattoos.
- Tattoos are applied to arms or hands only, avoiding the face or other sensitive areas.



- Staff/committee apply tattoos with clean, dry hands or use disposable gloves and follow good hygiene practices to minimise risk of cross-contamination.
- Used applicators or backing sheets are discarded after each use and are never reused.