

Health and safety policy

Statement of intent

This setting believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

Aim

We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of health and safety issues and to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Methods

Risk assessment

Our risk assessment process includes:

- checking for hazards and risks indoors and outside, and in our activities and procedures. Our assessment covers adults and children;
- deciding which areas need attention; and
- developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the timescales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required.

We maintain lists of health and safety issues, which are checked:

- daily before the session begins;
- yearly - when a full risk assessment is carried out.

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed by the main entrance

Awareness raising

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues so that all adults are able to adhere to our policy and understand their shared responsibility for health and safety. The induction training covers matters of employee well-being, including safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances.
- Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.
- We have a no smoking policy.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Children's safety

- We ensure all staff employed have been checked for criminal records by an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.
- Adults do not normally supervise children on their own.
- All children are supervised by adults at all times.

Security

- Procedures are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children.
 - Between the time of opening the main entrance door and 9:15 each morning a member of staff will be stationed at the entrance door to monitor and record the

arrival time of each child and ensure that any child recorded as arrived does not leave via the entrance door unless such leaving is signed by the person bringing the child to nursery.

- A register of children is prepared between 9:10 and 9:30, once such registration is started no further admissions via the main entrance will be permitted.
- Late arrivals will be permitted to enter via the disabled door.
- Once registration has started, any adult wishing to enter nursery must sign in the visitor's book and sign again when leaving the nursery.
- The arrival and departure times of all other visitors is recorded in the visitor's book. Such arrival and departure from the premises must be supervised by a member of staff.
- Our procedures prevent unauthorised access to our premises and include but are not limited to the use of gates at the main entrance, the disabled entrance, both stairs to the stage and the corridor leading to the committee room.
- Our procedures prevent children from leaving our premises unnoticed.

Windows

- Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.
- Windows above the ground floor are secured so that children cannot climb through them.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.
- All floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven or damaged.

Kitchen

- Children are not allowed unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
- There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing up.
- Cleaning materials and other dangerous materials are stored out of children's reach.
- When children take part in cooking activities, they:
 - are supervised at all times;
 - are kept away from hot surfaces and hot water; and
 - do not have unsupervised access to electrical equipment.

Electrical/gas equipment

- All electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switchgear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- The temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

Storage

- All resources and materials from which children select are stored safely.
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced.
- Access to the outdoor play area by staff and children must be via the kitchen door. At no time should children access the garden by use of the main door.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times.

Hygiene

- Our daily routines encourage the children to learn about personal hygiene.
- We have a daily cleaning routine for the setting which includes play room(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities and the disposal of nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - checking toilets regularly;
 - wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
 - providing sets of clean clothes;
 - providing tissues and wipes.
 - Staff will wash their own hands after using the toilet themselves or assisting the children.
 - Staff will ensure that all children wash their hands after using the toilet.

Activities

- Before purchase or loan, equipment and resources are checked to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting.
- The layout of play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.
- All equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.
- All materials - including paint and glue - are non-toxic.
- Sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.

Food and drink

- Staff who prepare and handle food receive appropriate training and understand - and comply with - food safety and hygiene regulations.
- All food and drink is stored appropriately.
- Adults do not carry hot drinks through the play area(s) and do not place hot drinks within reach of children.
- Snack and meal times are appropriately supervised and children do not walk about with food and drinks.
- Fresh drinking water is available to the children at all times.

- We operate systems to ensure that children do not have access to food/drinks to which they are allergic.

Outings and visits

- We have agreed procedures for the safe conduct of outings.
- Parents sign a general consent on registration for their children to be taken out as a part of the daily activities of the setting.
- Parents always sign consent forms before major outings.
- A risk assessment is carried out before an outing takes place if deemed necessary.
- Our adult to child ratio is high, normally one adult to two children.
- Staff take a mobile phone on outings, and supplies of tissues, wipes, pants etc as well as a mini first aid pack, a snack and water. The amount of equipment will vary and be consistent with the venue and the number of children as well as how long they will be out for.
- Records are kept of the vehicles used to transport children, with named drivers and appropriate insurance cover.
- A minimum of two staff should accompany children on outings and a minimum of two should remain behind with the rest of the children.

Animals

- Animals visiting the setting are free from disease and safe to be with children, and do not pose a health risk.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

Fire safety

- Fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened from inside.
- Smoke detectors/alarms and fire fighting appliances conform to BSEN standards, are fitted in appropriate high risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer.
- Our emergency evacuation procedures are clearly displayed in the premises;
 - explained to new members of staff, volunteers and parents; and
 - practised regularly at least once every six weeks.
- Records are kept of fire drills and the servicing of fire safety equipment.

First aid and medication

At least one member of staff with current first aid training is on the premises or on an outing at any one time. The first aid qualification includes first aid training for infants and young children.

Our first aid kit:

- is regularly checked by a designated member of staff and re-stocked as necessary;
- is easily accessible to adults; and
- is kept out of the reach of children.

At the time of admission to the setting, parents' written permission for emergency medical advice or treatment is sought. Parents sign and date their written approval.

Parents sign a consent form at registration allowing staff to take their child to the nearest Accident and Emergency unit to be examined, treated or admitted if it is seen that waiting for the parents/emergency contact to arrive would put the child at further risk.

The parents/emergency contact will be advised of this action and given details of where their child is. The child will be accompanied at all times by a member of staff
Parents may be contacted following an accident, depending on the severity or if the child is extremely distressed we will contact you to advise you.

Our accident book:

- is kept safely and accessibly;
- all staff and volunteers know where it is kept and how to complete it; and
- is reviewed regularly to identify any potential or actual hazards.

Ofsted is notified of any injury requiring treatment by a general practitioner or hospital doctor, or the death of a child or adult.

When there is any injury requiring general practitioner or hospital treatment to a child, parent, volunteer or visitor or where there is a death of a child or adult on the premises, we make a report to the Health and Safety Executive using the format for the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences.

Dealing with incidents

We meet our legal requirements for the safety of our employees by complying with RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injury, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). We report to the Health and Safety Executive:

- any accident to a member of staff requiring treatment by a general practitioner or hospital; and
- any dangerous occurrences. This may be an event that causes injury or fatalities or an event that does not cause an accident but could have done, such as a gas leak.
- Any dangerous occurrence is recorded in our Incident Book. See below.

Our Incident Book

We keep an incident book for recording incidents such as serious behavioural incidents involving hurting of another child

- In the incident book we record the date and time of the incident, nature of the event, who was affected, what was done about it.
- In the unlikely even of a terrorist attack we follow the advice of the emergency services with regard to evacuation, medical aid and contacting children's families. Our standard Fire Safety Policy will be followed and staff will take charge of their key children. The incident is recorded when the threat is averted.
- In the unlikely even of a child dying on the premises, for example, through cot death in the case of a baby, or any other means involving an older child, the emergency services are called, and the advice of these services are followed.
- The incident book is not for recording issues of concern involving a child. This is recorded in the child's own file.

Administration of medication

- Only prescribed medication may be administered. It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- Children's prescribed drugs are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children.
- Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. This states the name of the child, name/s of parent(s), date the medication starts, the name of the medication and prescribing doctor, the dose and times, or how and when the medication is to be administered.

- The administration is recorded accurately each time it is given and is signed by staff. Parents sign the record book to acknowledge the administration of a medicine.
- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, individual training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.

Sickness

Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents. This includes procedures for contacting parents - or other authorised adults - if a child becomes ill while in the setting.

Should a child become ill during a session, the person in charge of the setting will assess the nature of the illness and if it is deemed necessary the parents will be contacted as soon as possible. If the parents are not available, the emergency contact will be informed and requested to make arrangements to collect the child from the Nursery. A member of staff will remain with the child to comfort and reassure them until they are collected

- We do not provide care for children who are unwell, have a temperature, or sickness and diarrhoea, or who have an infectious disease.
- Following a case of sickness and/or diarrhoea , the child must not return to nursery until 48 hours after the last episode. Staff suffering from sickness and diarrhoea will also not be permitted to return until 48 hours after the last episode .
- Children with headlice are not excluded, but must be treated to remedy the condition.
- Parents are notified if there is a case of headlice in the setting.
- Parents are notified if there is an infectious disease, such as chicken pox.
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) may affect children or families attending the setting. Staff may or may not be informed about it.
- Children or families are not excluded because of HIV.
- Good hygiene practice concerning the clearing of any spilled bodily fluids is carried out at all times.
- Staff suffering from sickness and diarrhoea will also not be permitted to return until 48 hours after the last episode
- Ofsted is notified of any infectious diseases that a qualified medical person considers notifiable.

If the child needs immediate hospital treatment, and waiting for the parents/emergency contact to arrive could put the child at further risk, in accordance with the authority signed on the registration form, the child will be taken to hospital.

The parents/emergency contact will be advised of this action and given details of where their child is. The child will be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.

When a child in the setting has an illness that could spread to the other children, the Supervisor will make the decision as to whether to inform all parents. However, parents will be informed immediately if there is a more serious illness, in particular if there is a case of meningitis

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages..
- The sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues that need to be addressed.

Records

In accordance with the National Standards for Day Care, we keep records of:

Adults

- names and addresses of all staff on the premises, including temporary staff who work with the children or who have substantial access to them;
- all records relating to the staff's employment with the setting, including application forms, references, results of checks undertaken etc.

Children

- names, addresses and telephone numbers of parents and adults authorised to collect children from setting;
- the names, addresses and telephone numbers of emergency contacts in case of children's illness or accident;
- the allergies, dietary requirements and illnesses of individual children;
- the times of attendance of children, staff, volunteers and visitors;
- accidents and medicine administration records;
- consents for outings, administration of medication, emergency treatment; and
- incidents.

All staff while carrying out their duties must ensure the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and the children under their care to the best of their ability.

Any interference with safety devices, guards, fire equipment or any other device provided for the safety of themselves, their colleagues and the children under their care may result in disciplinary action.