



Health and Safety Policy

Statement of intent

This nursery believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our nursery 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

All members of staff are responsible for health and safety within the setting. In the case of an issue staff should report it to the most senior member of staff.

We display the necessary health and safety poster in the Office. All staff may use the nursery telephone to contact the emergency services if necessary

Risk assessment

- Risk assessments are used as a tool to help us to identify risks and avoid or reduce injury to children, staff, parents and visitors
- All staff have a duty to identify any new risks and inform their manager of them
- We maintain health and safety checklists for:
 - o The playground (outside risk assessment)
 - o Inside the nursery (inside risk assessment)
 - o Toilet area

All members of staff must report faulty equipment to the nursery manager.

Insurance Cover We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate is displayed in the entrance hall.

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.
- Health and safety issues are explained to the parents of new children so that they understand the part they play in the daily life of the nursery.
- As necessary, health and safety training is included in the annual training plans of staff and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.
- We have a no smoking policy.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Children's safety

- Only persons who have been checked for criminal records by an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service have unsupervised access to the children, including helping them with toileting.
- Adults do not normally supervise children on their own.
- All children are supervised by adults at all times.
- Whenever children are on the premises at least two adults are present.

Security

- Systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. The times of the children's arrivals and departures are recorded.
- The arrival and departure times of adults - staff, volunteers and visitors - are recorded.
- Our systems prevent unauthorised access to our premises.
- Our systems prevent children from leaving our premises unnoticed.
- The personal possessions of staff and work experience students are securely stored during nursery sessions.

Windows

We take precautions to prevent children from climbing up at any low level windows by ensuring that no unsuitable items of furniture are left underneath the window.

Doors

We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors using finger guards.

Floors

All surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven or damaged.

Kitchen

- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
- There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing up. Staff wash their hands before entering the kitchen.
- 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 meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- 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 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.
- 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

- We regularly seek information from the Environmental Health Department and the Health Authority to ensure that we keep up-to-date with the latest recommendations.
- Our daily routines encourage the children to learn about personal hygiene.
- We have a daily cleaning routine for the nursery which includes playrooms, kitchen, office, staff room, toilets and nappy changing areas.
- We have a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment, dressing up clothes and furnishings.
- 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

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 nursery.
- 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 are taught to handle and store tools safely.
- Children who are sleeping are checked regularly.

- 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 (see the allergies and allergic reaction policy).
- If a child has an allergic reaction either on site or on an outing, a first aider follows the procedure for administering medicine (if appropriate), the parent will be informed as soon as possible and in severe circumstances an ambulance called in accordance with the hospital procedure (see the allergies and allergic reaction policy).

Outings and visits

- We have agreed procedures for the safe conduct of outings (see the visits and outings policy).
- A risk assessment is carried out before an outing takes place.
- Parents always sign consent forms before major outings.
- Our adult to child ratio is higher than normal.
- The children are appropriately supervised to ensure no child gets lost and that there is no unauthorised access to children.
- Records are kept of the vehicles used to transport children, with named drivers and appropriate insurance cover.

For those children remaining at nursery, the adult to child ratio conforms to the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Animals

- Animals visiting the nursery are free from disease, safe to be with children and do not pose a health risk. A full risk assessment is carried out before children are allowed contact with any animal.
- Any nursery pets are free from disease, safe to be with children and do not pose a health risk.

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 approved by the Fire Safety Officer and 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.

The control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH)

- All staff are made aware of what COSHH is and read the Health and Safety Policy at the point of induction
- Staff members are not allowed to bring in their own products to use within the nursery. This includes any cleaning or sanitising products and also anything to be used within creative activities
- All substances stored out of reach of children and kept in their original bottles with manufacturers labels on

- All hazardous substances have a data information sheet which are all kept in the COSHH file. All substances must be ordered through our list of regular suppliers and where possible we try to order the same products
- No bleach or air fresheners (including plug-in air fresheners) to be used or stored at the setting at any time

First aid and medication

At least one member of staff with a current first aid training certificate (relevant to infants and young children) 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. All staff will be first aid trained.

Our first aid kit:

- complies with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981;
- is regularly checked by a designated member of staff and re-stocked as necessary;
- is easily accessible to adults;

Medication:

- all medication is clearly labelled with the child's name; and
- is kept out of the reach of children.

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

Our Accident and Incident Reports:

- are kept safe and accessible;
- all staff and volunteers know where they are kept and how to complete them;
- all accidents/ incidents are confidential and any other children involved are anonymous and
- are reviewed at least half termly to identify any potential or actual hazards.

Ofsted is notified of any injury requiring treatment by a General Practitioner or hospital, or the death of a child or adult.

Any injury requiring General Practitioner or hospital treatment to a child, parent, volunteer or visitor is reported to the local office of the Health and Safety Executive.

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 local office of the Health and Safety Executive:

- any accident to a member of staff requiring treatment by a General Practitioner or hospital; and
- any dangerous occurrences (i.e. an event which does not cause an accident but could have done).

Medication procedure

Children's prescribed drugs are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are kept in an area inaccessible to the children. Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The administration is recorded accurately, and parents sign the record 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. As a general rule, keyworkers, the manager and the deputy manager could be called upon to administer medication.

Asthma-inhalers the nursery keeps a written record of who has access to inhalers, how often staff are reminded, where they are stored and who can administer them.

Sickness (see the sickness policy) Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents using guidelines from the Infections in Children (issued by the Health Protection Agency).

If a child should become ill at nursery, they are moved to a quiet area with a member of staff. The child's parent will be contacted in order to arrange collection.

Ofsted is notified of any infectious diseases which a qualified medical person considers notifiable.

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with training and guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment or to change light bulbs they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages.
- Adults do not remain in the building on their own or leave on their own after dark.
- The sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues which need to be addressed.

Records In accordance with the EYFS statutory framework,

we keep records of:

- adults authorised to collect children from nursery;
- 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
- incidents.

In addition, the following policies and documentation in relation to health and safety are in place.

No Smoking

The nursery building and outside area are totally non smoking areas. Staff may not smoke whilst on the premises, nor whilst visibly wearing their uniform.

(Please see our No Smoking Policy)