

General Welfare Requirement: Suitable premises, environment and equipment

Outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture and toys must be safe and suitable for their purpose.

Health and safety

Risk Assessment

Policy statement

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 by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment. We consider aspects of the benefits to children's development when assessing potential risks/hazards in our environment, as per Local Authority 'Play Policy and Strategy 2006' and 'Managing Risks in Play Provision' as per guidance from DCSF (2008).

The basis of this policy is risk assessment. We follow procedures as advised in the H.S.E document 'Five Steps To Risk Assessment' in order to help us to identify potential hazards/risks and to take appropriate actions, we ask ourselves:

- Identification of risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, cooks, cleaners etc?
- Assessment as to the level of risk as high, medium, low. This is both the risk of the likelihood of it happening, as well as the possible impact if it did.
- Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will you need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?
- Monitoring and review: How do you know if what you have said is working, or is thorough enough? If it is not working, we may amend our procedure - we monitor/record our findings in our Health and Safety file.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe		3.3 The learning environment 3.4 The wider context	

Procedures

- Our risk assessment process covers adults and children and includes:
 - checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, and in our premises and for activities;
 - assessing the level of risk and who might be affected;
 - deciding which areas need attention; and
 - developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the time-scales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required.

Where more than five staff and volunteers are employed the risk assessment is written and is reviewed regularly.

We maintain lists of health and safety issues, which are checked daily before the session begins as well as those that are checked on a weekly and termly basis when a full risk assessment is carried out.

Legal framework

- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992

Further guidance

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2006)
- www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf
- Risk Management in Early Years Settings (2007)
- www.southglos.gov.uk

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Managing Risk (2009)