



Health and Safety General Standards

Policy statement

We believe 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.

- We aim to make children, parents, staff and volunteers 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.
- Our member of staff responsible for health and safety is:

Linda Reynolds

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- She is competent to carry out these responsibilities.
 - She has undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates her knowledge and understanding.
 - We display the necessary health and safety poster on:

The wall between the kitchen and bathroom in the main building and on the door by the toilet in the Preschool building.

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed in:

Our main office

Procedures

Awareness raising

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues, so that all adults can adhere to our policy and procedures as they understand their shared responsibility for health and safety. The induction training covers matters of staff well-being, including safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances.
- We keep records of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.

- We explain health and safety issues to the parents of new children, so that they understand the part played by these issues in the daily life of the setting.
- As necessary, health and safety is discussed regularly at our staff meetings.
- We operate a no-smoking policy.
- We make children aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.
- Daily risk assessments are in place for all rooms that are used by the children and staff, and weekly risk assessments are in place for all offices.

Windows

- Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or we ensure that they are made safe.
- We ensure that windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.
- We ensure that any blind cords are safely out of reach and do not pose a strangulation risk for young children.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.
- We have secure codes/key locks on all doors to prevent children from being able to get out of their rooms and to stop people from being able to access the building.

Floors and walkways

- All our floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven, wet or damaged. Any wet spills are mopped up immediately.
- Walkways are left clear and uncluttered.
- Stair gates are in place in doorways

Electrical/gas equipment

- We ensure that all electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, wires and leads are properly guarded, and we teach the children not to touch them.
- There are enough sockets in our setting to prevent overloading.
- We switch electrical devices off from the plug after use.
- We ensure that the temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation are adequate in all areas of our setting, including storage areas.

Storage

- All our resources and materials, which are used by the children, are stored safely.
- All our equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish, animal droppings and any other unsafe items before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides.
- We leave receptacles upturned to prevent collection of rainwater. Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied and cleaned before children start playing outside.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; ensuring that sun cream is applied, and hats are worn during the summer months.
- We always supervise outdoor activities.

Hygiene

- We seek information from the Public Health England 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 setting, which includes the playroom(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas. Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene, including hand washing and drying facilities and disposal facilities for nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - Cleaning tables between activities
 - Cleaning and checking toilets regularly
 - Wearing protective clothing - such as disposable gloves - as appropriate
 - Providing tissues and wipes.

Activities, resources and repairs

- Before purchase or loan, we check equipment and resources to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting.
- We keep a full inventory of all items in the setting for audit and insurance purposes.
- The layout of our play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.

- All our equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety, and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.
- All our materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.
- We ensure that sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- We teach children to handle and store equipment safely.
- We check children who are sleeping at regular intervals of at least every ten minutes. This is recorded with the times checked and the initials of the person undertaking the check.
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.
- Any faulty equipment is removed from use and is repaired. If it cannot be repaired, it is discarded. Large pieces of equipment are discarded only with the consent of the management team.

Jewellery and accessories

- Our staff will be asked to remove jewellery or fashion accessories, that may pose a danger to themselves or children.
- Parents must ensure that any jewellery worn by children poses no danger; particularly earrings which may get pulled, bracelets which can get caught when climbing or necklaces that may pose a risk of strangulation.

Safety of adults

- We ensure that adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- We provide safe equipment for adults to use when they need to reach up to store equipment.
- We ensure that all warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages.
- We ensure that adults do not remain in the building on their own.
- We record the sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues that need to be addressed.

Control of substances hazardous to health

- Our staff implement the current guidelines of the *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)*.
- Hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.
- We keep the chemicals used in the setting to the minimum in order to ensure health and hygiene is maintained.
- Environmental factors are considered when purchasing, using and disposing of chemicals.

- All members of staff are vigilant and use chemicals safely.

- **Legal framework**
 - Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
 - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)
 - Electricity at Work Regulations (1989)
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (2002)
 - Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992 (As Amended 2004))
 - Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992)

Policy links

Our intention is for this policy to be read in conjunction with the following Home from Home Childcarers Policies and Procedures:

- Manual Handling Policy
- Maintaining Children’s Safety and Security on the Premise
- Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation
- No Smoking

	<u>Date:</u>	<u>By Whom?</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Created	5 th November 2019	Zoe Shaw	Replaced old Health and Safety Policy
Reviewed	4 th February 2020	Lynsey McAusland + SMT	
Reviewed	1 st April 2021	Zoe Shaw	
Reviewed	15 th April 2022	Linda Reynolds	
Reviewed	9 th March 2023	Zoe Shaw	
Updated	5 th January 2024	Chrissie Morley	Updated to include daily and weekly risk assessments for the setting.
Reviewed	20 th August 2025	Rachel Simms	
Next Review	2026		