

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

### **Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

## **8.1 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:

#### **Tracey Pritchard - Pre-School Manager**

---

- 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 in:

#### **The Entrance Lobby**

---

### *Insurance cover*

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

#### **The Entrance Lobby**

---

### **Procedures**

#### *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 procedures as they 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.
- 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 training is included in the annual training plans of staff, and 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.

### *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 and stairs are left clear and uncluttered.
- Stair gates are in place at the foot of the outside steps and the entrance to the stage.

### ▪ *Electrical/gas equipment*

- Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and we teach the children not to touch them.
- We check storage heaters daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient 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 is adequate in all areas of our setting.

### ▪ *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 secure, and gates are childproof and safe.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish, animal droppings and any other unsafe items before it is used.
- We are aware of 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.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; asking parents to supply sun cream and hats during the summer months.
- We always supervise outdoor activities; and particular children on climbing equipment.

### *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 hall, kitchen, toilets and nappy changing areas. Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- 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 dispose of nappies immediately.
  
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
  - cleaning tables between activities;
  - cleaning and checking toilets regularly;
  - wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
  - providing sets of clean clothes;
  - 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.
- We make safe and separate from general use any areas that are unsafe because of repair is needed.
- 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 tools safely.
- 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 manager and the management team.

### *Sleep*

- We recognise the importance of sleep and rest for all children in our setting. We will ensure children get either sleep or rest when they may need it regardless of their age. We will work with the family on their child's sleep/rest patterns and will always work in the best interest of the children.
- We check children who are sleeping at regular intervals of at least every 10 minutes, a timer is used to do this. This is recorded with the times checked and the initials of the person undertaking the check.
- If children fall asleep in situ it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable.
- Checking a child while sleeping should involve:
  - **LOOK: LISTEN: FEEL:**
    - LOOK for signs of the child breathing, (chest going up/down),

- LISTEN for the child's breath,
  - FEEL by placing a hand lightly on their chest to check they are breathing and putting the back of your hand near to the child's mouth to feel for exhaling breath.
- Ensuring that each child is well
  - Ensuring that each child is not too hot or too cold
  - Ensuring that all sheets or blankets are not wrapped around the child

#### *Jewellery and accessories*

- Our staff do not wear jewellery or fashion accessories, such as belts, high heels or flip flops that may pose a danger to themselves or children. Footwear must be enclosed unless a medical condition prevents this, and therefore must be agreed with the manager. Our usual uniform is black skirt, trousers or ¾ length trousers and a polo top provided by the pre-school.
- 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 provide safe equipment for adults to use when they need to reach up to store equipment or to change light bulbs.
- 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)*.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used and where they are stored.
- Hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children.
- We carry out a risk assessment for all chemicals used in the setting. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested.
- 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. We do not use:
  - bleach;
  - anti-bacterial soap/hand wash, unless specifically advised during an infection outbreak such as Pandemic flu; or

- anti-bacterial cleaning agents, except in the toilets, nappy changing area and food preparation/serving areas when children are present. Anti-bacterial spays are not used when children are nearby.
- Environmental factors are taken into account when purchasing, using and disposing of chemicals.
- All members of staff are vigilant and use chemicals safely.
- Members of staff wear protective gloves when using cleaning chemicals.

**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)

**Further guidance**

- Health and Safety Law: What You Need to Know (HSE Revised 2009)
- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)
- Electrical Safety and You: A Brief Guide (HSE 2012)
- Working with Substances Hazardous to Health: What You Need to Know About COSHH (HSE Revised 2009)
- Getting to Grips with Manual Handling - Frequently Asked Questions: A Short Guide (HSE 2011)

|   |       |        |
|---|-------|--------|
| This policy was adopted by                        | _____ |        |
| On  | _____ | (date) |
| Date to be reviewed                               | _____ | (date) |
| Signed on behalf of the provider                  | _____ |        |
| Name of signatory                                 | _____ |        |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) | _____ |        |



