

Health and Safety Policy

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.

- We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of health and safety 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 **Clare Appleby**.
- She is competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- She regularly updates her knowledge and understanding.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster in the cloakroom.

Insurance Cover

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

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 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.
- 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 operate a no-smoking policy.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Safety of Children

- We ensure all staff employed have been checked for criminal records by an doing an enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) check.
- All children are supervised by adults at all times.
- Whenever children are on the premises at least two adults must be present.
- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen area.
- All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
- There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing up.
- Cleaning materials are other dangerous materials are stored out of children's reach.
- When children take part in cooking activities they are supervised at all times.

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, for example to store equipment, they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear.
- 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.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health – such as cleaning chemicals. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are neglected.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.

Floors

- All floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven, wet or damaged.

Electrical/Gas Equipment

- 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, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them.
- Storage heaters are checked daily to make sure they are not covered.
- 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.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly.
- 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 setting which includes the play room, kitchen, toilets and nappy changing area.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities.

Nappies are double bagged disposed of.

We implement good hygiene practices by:

- cleaning tables between each activity;
- checking toilets regularly throughout sessions and cleaning regularly;
- wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
- providing tissues and wipes;
- ensuring individual use of towels.

Activities and Resources

- 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 are taught 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 chairperson.

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)
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992

Further Guidance

- Health and Safety Law: What you should Know (HSE 1999)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/law.pdf
- Health and Safety Regulation... a Short Guide (HSE 2003)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf
- Electrical Safety and You (HSE 1998)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg231.pdf
- COSHH: A Brief Guide to the Regulations (HSE 2005)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg136.pdf
- Manual Handling – Frequently Asked Questions (HSE)
www.hse.gov.uk/contact/faqs/manualhandling.htm

Reviewed by:

Vickie Smith, Co-Chair	02/09/2018
Alice Bettoney, Treasurer	02/09/2018
Date of next review	02/10/2019