



## **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.

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

### **Health and safety general standards Policy statement**

We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance, even more so at this time and we therefore aim to make our setting as safe and healthy for our children and staff, during this period.

- 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.
- Our member of staff responsible for health and safety is Clare Bligh - 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 our staff entrance area

### **Insurance cover**

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance, we have been in contact with our insurance company in relation to re-opening and have taken their advice on how to open the safely and clarification on the risks involved, including clinically extremely vulnerable and clinically vulnerable individuals. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed in the office

### **Procedures**

#### **Awareness raising**

- Our staff have had training 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 have explained new health and safety issues to the parents, so that they understand the part played by these issues in the daily life of the setting.
- We operate a no-smoking policy.
- We make children aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

#### **Windows**

- We ensure that any blind cords are secured safely and do not pose a strangulation risk for young children.

#### **Doors**

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

#### 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 and top of the stairs.

#### 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 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, including storage areas.

#### Storage

- All our resources and materials, which are used by the children, are stored safely and sanitised before and after use. Any toys which can not be sanitised, will not be allowed out.
- All our equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

#### Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced. All gates and fences 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.
- 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.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is put away at the end of session.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; We ask that parents apply suncream before attending Preschool, to minimise contact as much as possible and hats are worn during the summer months.
- We supervise outdoor activities at all times; and particularly 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, especially at this time.
- We have a daily cleaning routine for the setting, which includes the play room(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas. Children will not have unsupervised access to the kitchen or toilets to ensure hygiene practices are upheld.
- We have a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment and furnishings, these are to be cleaned and sanitised before and after use and no equipment that can not be cleaned will not be permitted for use.
- 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 aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
  - providing sets of clean clothes;
  - providing tissues and wipes; and

### **Activities, resources and repairs**

- Before purchase, 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 children to be aware of social distancing and although we will try as much as possible the 2 metre distance, may prove difficult with such small children.
- 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.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- We teach children to handle and store tools safely.
- If children fall asleep in-situ, it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable.
- 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.

### **Jewellery and accessories**

- 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 PPE for adults to use when changing nappies and when in close contact with other adults or children.
- We ensure that all warning signs are clear and markings are laid out for parents to see distancing measures.
- We ensure that adults do not remain in the building on their own.
- We will record the sickness of staff and children and any positive tests of coronavirus reported, we will report to Ofsted , Local authority and Public HealthEngland

### **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. 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 areas. 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)