



Health and safety

HS1 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.

Risk assessment means:

Taking note of aspects of your workplace and activities that could cause harm, either to yourself or to others, and deciding what needs to be done to prevent that harm, making sure this is adhered to.

The law does not require that all risk is eliminated, but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children to be able to take appropriate risks through physically challenging play. Children need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with a risk.

Daily safety sweeps and checks indoors and outdoors

- Safety sweeps are conducted when setting up for the day prior to children arriving. Sometimes a safety sweep will identify a risk that requires a formal risk assessment on form.
- Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff and parents should be involved in reviewing risk assessments and procedures – they are the ones with first-hand knowledge as to whether the control measures are effective – and they can give an informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

This policy is based on the five steps below:

- 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 takes into account both 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, it will need to be amended, or maybe there is a better solution.

Procedures

- Our risk assessment process covers adults and children and includes:
 - determining where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how we are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers and inspectors;
 - checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, in relation to our premises and activities;
 - undertaking specific risk assessments when taking the children on outings, forest school, or, when a person is invited into our setting. (i.e. petting dog)
 - assessing the level of risk and who might be affected;
 - deciding which areas need attention; and
 - where needed, developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the time-scales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required.
- As 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 each session begins as well as those that are checked on a weekly and termly basis when a full risk assessment is carried out.
- Our manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments for work practice including:
 - changing children;
 - preparation and serving of food/drink for children;
 - children with allergies;
 - cooking activities with children;
 - supervising outdoor play and indoor/outdoor climbing equipment;
 - assessment, use and storage of equipment for disabled children;
 - the use and storage of substances which may be hazardous to health, such as cleaning chemicals;
 - visitors to the setting who are bring equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences; and
- following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers

We take precautions to reduce the risks of exposure to Legionella (Legionnaires disease). We ensure that we are familiar with the HSE guidance and risk assess accordingly.

Legal framework

- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Further guidance

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2011)
- Legionnaires' Disease – A Brief Guide for Duty holders (HSE 2012) www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Little Fishes Pre-School

Held on

20/9/11

Date to be reviewed

Reviewed: Spring Term 2022

Next Review: Spring Term 2023

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Maggie Mann – Chair

Tracy Parkins - Manager
