

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.



8.4 Risk assessment

Policy statement

Our 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.

This policy is based on the five steps outlined in the Pre-school Learning Alliance risk assessment process:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, cooks, cleaners, etc.?
- Assessment as to whether the level of a risk is 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 manager undertakes training and ensures staff and volunteers have adequate training in health and safety matters.
- 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 in- and outside, in relation to our premises and activities;
 - assessing the level of risk and who might be affected;
 - deciding which areas need attention; and
 - developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the time-scales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required.
- We maintain lists of health and safety issues, which are checked daily before the 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 checks, such as electricity and gas safety checks, and any necessary work to the setting premises are carried out annually and records are kept.

- Our manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety for all areas of the premises.
- 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;
 - putting young children to sleep;
 - 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 bringing equipment or animals as part of children’s learning experiences; and
 - following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers.
- Where more than five staff and volunteers are employed, the risk assessment is written and is reviewed regularly.
- Our manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments for off-site activities if required, including:
 - children’s outings (including use of public transport)
 - forest school
 - home visits; and
 - other off-site duties such as attending meetings, banking etc.
 - We take precautions to reduce the risks of exposure to Legionella (Legionnaires disease). Our manager ensures 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 Dutyholders (HSE 2012)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Managing Risk (2009)



Policy approved and adopted by LWPS Board of Trustees on 17 October 2016

Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Jenny Caw
Role of signatory	Co-Chair
Reviewed February	Signed:  Dated: 20 Feb 2017
Reviewed June	Signed: Dated:

