

Muddy Boots Pre-School CIO

Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment – Health and safety general standards



Review Date:

SEE COMMITTEE POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE

Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Health and safety general standards

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 issues and to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.
- Our members of staff responsible for health and safety are : Elaine Allen and Jacky Smith
We display the necessary health and safety poster in the entrance lobby. We ensure that each member of staff is;
 - competent to carry out these responsibilities;
 - has undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates her knowledge and understanding.

Insurance cover

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

Entrance Lobby

Procedures

Awareness raising

- Parents and carers are asked to read our "Parents/Carers code of practice" when attending their child's settling in sessions or "Stay and Play" sessions.
- 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.
- Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign records to confirm that they have taken part.
- Health and safety issues are explained 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 for staff, and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.

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

Windows

- High level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.
- Windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.
- We ensure that any blind cords are secured safely and do not pose strangulation risk for young children.

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. Any wet spills are mopped up immediately.
- Walkways are left clear and uncluttered.

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, electrical sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and we teach the children not to touch them.
- Storage heaters are checked daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- We switch electrical devices off from the plug after use.
- 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 select 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 securely fenced and gated in the surrounding area of the local school. The gated outdoor area is shared by the school and visitors. Staff make sure that children are aware of the rules when playing outdoors.
- 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.
- The local school pool is securely covered or otherwise guarded when the pre-school are playing in the outdoor area.
- 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.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times.
- Outdoor checks are done by a member of staff who check a list and sign it before the children go out to play.

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 main entrance lobby, play room, kitchen, toilets and nappy changing areas. The check list is kept on the kitchen wall. Children do not have access to our kitchen.
- We employ a cleaner who attends once a week for other cleaning duties.

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- The cleaning of resources and equipment, dressing-up clothes and furnishings is done at the end of Term 6 or when necessary.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene for hand washing and drying and the disposal of nappies, which are placed in a nappy disposal unit. This is emptied once a week by a professional hygiene company outside the setting.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - cleaning toilets regularly;
 - wearing protective clothing – such as uniform and disposable gloves – as appropriate;
 - providing sets of clean clothes;
 - providing tissues and wipes; and
 - ensuring individual use of paper towels;
 - wearing an apron and tying back long hair when preparing snacks, and;
 - adopting a kitchen opening/closing procedure which is followed daily.

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.
- We keep a full inventory of all items in the setting for audit and insurance purposes.
- 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.
- We make safe and separate from general use any areas that are unsafe because repair is needed.
- 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 who are sleeping are checked regularly.
- 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 chairperson or owner.

Jewellery and accessories

- Our staff do not wear jewellery or fashion accessories, such as belts or high heels that may pose a danger to themselves or children.
- 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.
- We ensure that hair accessories are removed before children sleep or rest.

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 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

- We 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

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- 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 Should 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)