

The Enchanted Wood Day Nursery Ltd: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Risk assessment

Policy statement

The Enchanted Wood Day Nursery Limited believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our nursery 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.

Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff members 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 informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

This policy is based on the five steps below:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, 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 Management team undertake training and ensure all staff members 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 indoors 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.
- Where 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 the session begins, as well as those that are checked on a weekly and termly basis when a full risk assessment is carried out. As the Nursery building is leased from the Deanes School the school is responsible for Health and Safety checks and implement what is required including PAT Testing, Water Testing and Fire Safety including fire extinguishers. The nursery ensures that the fire alarms and emergency lighting are adequately checked by an outside agency. The Management team completes a full Pre School Learning Alliance Risk Assessment yearly.
- The management team ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety for all areas of the premises.
- The management team ensure that staff members carry out risk assessments for general daily working practices:
 - changing children
 - preparation and serving of foods/drinks for children
 - children with allergies
 - cooking activities with children
 - supervising outdoor play
 - putting babies and young children to sleep

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

- the use and storage of substances which may be hazardous to health, such as cleaning chemicals, visitors to the nursery who are bringing equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences.
- following any incidents involving threats against staff members or volunteers.
- The management team ensure that staff members carry out risk assessments for off-site activities if required including:
 - children's outings (including using public transport if being used)
 - other off-site duties such as attending meetings, banking etc.
- We take precautions to reduce the risk of exposure to Legionella (Legionnaires disease). The Deanes ensure that the water is tested through an outside agency inline with the HSE guidance.

Legal framework

- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)