

Health and safety policy

Statement of intent

This playgroup believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our playgroup a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

Aim

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.

Methods

The Committee member responsible for health and safety is Dennis Oliver. He is competent to carry out these responsibilities. He has undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates his knowledge and understanding. We display the necessary health and safety poster in

Risk assessment

Our risk assessment process includes:

- checking for hazards and risks indoors and outside, and in our activities and procedures. Our assessment covers adults and children;
- deciding which areas need attention; and
- developing an action plan which specifies the action required, the timescales 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;
- weekly; and
- termly - when a full risk assessment is carried out.

Insurance Cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate is displayed on the parents notice board in the entrance hall

Awareness raising

- Health and safety issues are explained to the parents of new children so that they understand the part they play in the daily life of the playgroup.
- As necessary, health and safety training is included in the annual training plans of staff and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.
- We have a no smoking policy.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Children's safety

- Only persons who have been checked for criminal records by an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau and are registered with Ofsted as child carers have unsupervised access to the children, including helping them with toileting.
- Adults do not normally supervise children on their own.
- All children are supervised by adults at all times.
- Whenever children are on the premises at least two adults are present.

Security

- Systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. The times of the children's arrivals and departures are recorded.
- The arrival and departure times of adults - staff, volunteers and visitors - are recorded.
- Our systems prevent unauthorised access to our premises.
- Our systems prevent children from leaving our premises unnoticed.
- The personal possessions of staff and volunteers are securely stored during playgroup sessions.

Doors

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

Floors

All surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven or damaged.

Kitchen

- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- All surfaces are clean and non-porous.
- There are separate facilities for hand-washing and for washing up.
- Cleaning materials and other dangerous materials are stored out of children's reach.
- When children take part in cooking activities, they:
 - are supervised at all times;
 - are kept away from hot surfaces and hot water; and
 - do not have unsupervised access to electrical equipment.

Electrical/gas equipment

- All electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switchgear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them.
- Frost heaters are checked daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- The temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.

- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

Storage

- All resources and materials which children select are stored safely.
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides.
- 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.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times.

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 playgroup which includes play room(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas.
- We have a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment, dressing up clothes and furnishings.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities and the disposal of nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - checking toilets regularly;
 - wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
 - providing sets of clean clothes;
 - providing tissues and wipes; and
 - ensuring sole use of flannels and towels.

Activities

- 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 playgroup.
- 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.
- 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 learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.

Food and drink

- Staff who prepare and handle food receive appropriate training and understand - and comply with - food safety and hygiene regulations.
- All food and drink is stored appropriately.
- Adults do not carry hot drinks through the play area(s) and do not place hot drinks within reach of children.
- Snack times are appropriately supervised and children do not walk about with food and drinks.
- Fresh drinking water is available to the children at all times.
- We operate systems to ensure that children do not have access to food/drinks to which they are allergic.

Outings and visits

- We have agreed procedures for the safe conduct of outings.
- Procedures to be followed on outings are contained within our operational plan.
- A risk assessment is carried out before an outing takes place.
- Parents always sign consent forms before major outings.
- Our adult to child ratio is high, normally one adult to two children.
- The children are appropriately supervised to ensure no child gets lost and that there is no unauthorised access to children.
- Records are kept of the vehicles used to transport children, with named drivers and appropriate insurance cover.

For those children remaining at playgroup, the adult to child ratio conforms to the requirements of the National Standards for Day Care.

Animals

- Animals visiting the playgroup are free from disease, safe to be with children and do not pose a health risk.

Fire safety

- Fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened from inside.
- Smoke detectors/alarms and fire fighting appliances conform to BSEN standards, are fitted in appropriate high risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer.
- Our emergency evacuation procedures are approved by the Fire Safety Officer and are:
 - clearly displayed in the premises;
 - explained to new members of staff, volunteers and parents; and
 - practised regularly at least once every six weeks.
- Records are kept of fire drills and the servicing of fire safety equipment.

First aid and medication

At least one member of staff with a current first aid training certificate (relevant to infants and young children) is on the premises or on an outing at any one time. The first aid qualification includes first aid training for infants and young children.

Our first aid kit:

- complies with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981;
- is regularly checked by a designated member of staff and re-stocked as necessary;
- is easily accessible to adults; and
- is kept out of the reach of children.

At the time of admission to the playgroup, parents' written permission for emergency medical advice or treatment is sought. Parents sign and date their written approval.

Accident Procedure

In the event of an accident, the following procedure should be followed:-

- a member of staff to escort other children away from the incident, reassure and distract them with a suitable activity.
- first aider should assess the situation.
- in non-serious cases the incident will be dealt with by the first aider on the premises and recorded in the accident book and parent/guardian informed.
- in serious cases the following procedure should be followed:-
 - where possible the person involved should not be moved.
 - Administer basic first aid
 - Telephone for emergency services stating address

Easington Playgroup
Harriers Ground School
Harriers View
Bloxham Road
Banbury

Tel: 07748 382341

What Happened
Any injuries
Who was involved

- Contact parent/guardian
- Inform main school of situation and then arrange emergency staff cover if a member of staff has to leave the premises.

A notice of this procedure is displayed on the notice board in the room

Our Accident Book:

- is kept safely and accessibly;
- all staff and volunteers know where it is kept and how to complete it; and

- is reviewed at least half termly to identify any potential or actual hazards.

Ofsted is notified of any injury requiring treatment by a General Practitioner or hospital, or the death of a child or adult.

Any injury requiring General Practitioner or hospital treatment to a child, parent, volunteer or visitor is reported to the local office of the Health and Safety Executive.

We meet our legal requirements for the safety of our employees by complying with RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injury, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). We report to the local office of the Health and Safety Executive:

- any accident to a member of staff requiring treatment by a General Practitioner or hospital; and
- any dangerous occurrences (i.e. an event which does not cause an accident but could have done).

Children's prescribed drugs are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children.

Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The administration is recorded accurately and parents sign the record book to acknowledge the administration of a medicine.

If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, individual training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.

Sickness

Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents. This includes procedures for contacting parents - or other authorised adults - if a child becomes ill at playgroup.

Ofsted is notified of any infectious diseases which a qualified medical person considers notifiable.

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment or to change light bulbs they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages.
- Adults do not remain in the building on their own or leave on their own after dark.
- The sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues which need to be addressed.

Records

In accordance with the National Standards for Day Care, we keep records of:

- adults authorised to collect children from playgroup;
- the names, addresses and telephone numbers of emergency contacts in case of children's illness or accident;
- the allergies, dietary requirements and illnesses of individual children;

- the times of attendance of children, staff, volunteers and visitors;
- accidents; and
- incidents.

In addition, the following policies and documentation in relation to health and safety are in place.

National Standard 6: Safety

- Risk assessment.
- Record of visitors.
- Fire safety procedures.
- Fire safety records and certificates.
- Operational procedures for outings.
- Vehicle records including insurance.
- List of named drivers.

National Standard 7: Health

- Administration of medication.
- Prior parental consent to administer medicine.
- Record of the administration of medicines.
- Prior parental consent for emergency treatment.
- Accident record.
- Sick children.
- No smoking.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Easington Playgroup

A Risk Assessment Checklist is available to playgroups joining the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Royal and SunAlliance Insurance Scheme.