

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.

Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

8.1 Health and safety general standards

Policy statement

We believe 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, staff, and volunteers 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.
- All member of staff responsible for health and safety
- They are competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- They have undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates their knowledge and understanding.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster in:

The Kitchen

Insurance cover

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

The main office

Procedures

Awareness raising

- 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.
- We keep records of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.
- We explain health and safety issues 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 of staff, and health and safety is discussed regularly at our staff meetings.
- We operate a no-smoking policy.
- We make children aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Windows

- Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or we ensure that they are made safe.
- We ensure that windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.
- Our windows above the ground floor are secured so that children cannot climb through them.
- We ensure that any blind cords are secured safely and do not pose a strangulation risk for young children.

Doors

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

Floors and walkways

- All our 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, meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, wires and leads are properly guarded and we teach the children not to touch them.
- We check storage heaters daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets in our setting to prevent overloading.
- We switch electrical devices off from the plug after use.
- We ensure that 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, 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. All gates and fences are childproof and safe.

- 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.
- We leave receptacles upturned to prevent collection of rainwater. Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied and cleaned before children start playing outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit is checked daily.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; ensuring that sunscreen is applied and hats are worn during the summer months.
- We supervise outdoor activities at all times; and particularly children on climbing equipment.

Hygiene

- We seek information from the Public Health England 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 the play room(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas. Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen.
- 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 disposal facilities for nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - cleaning and 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 individual use of flannels, towels and toothbrushes.

Activities, resources and repairs

- Before purchase or loan, we check equipment and resources 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 our play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.
- All our 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 of repair is needed.
- All our materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.
- We ensure that sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.

- We teach children to handle and store tools safely.
- We check children who are sleeping at regular intervals of at least every ten minutes.
- If children fall asleep in-situ, it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable.
- 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 management team.

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 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

- Our staff 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
- 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 Need to 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)

This policy was adopted by

Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group

On

10th September 2013

Date to be reviewed

Annually or where deemed necessary

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Carol Nice

Name of signatory

Carol Nice

Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

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.

8.2 Maintaining children's safety and security on premises

Policy statement

We maintain the highest possible security of our premises to ensure that each child is safely cared for during their time with us.

Procedures

Children's personal safety

- We ensure all employed staff have been checked for criminal records via an enhanced disclosure with children's barred list check through the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- All children are supervised by adults at all times.
- Whenever children are on the premises at least two adults are present.
- We carry out risk assessments to ensure children are not made vulnerable within any part of [our/my] premises, nor by any activity.

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.
- We only allow access to visitors with prior appointments.
- Our staff check the identity of any person who is not known before they enter the premises.
- We keep front doors and gates locked shut at all times. Back doors are kept locked shut at all times where they may lead to a public or unsupervised area.
- We have installed entry phones and a glass door is in place when entering.
- The personal possessions of staff and volunteers are securely stored during sessions.
- Minimal petty cash is kept on the premises.

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Name of signatory	Carol Nice
Role of signatory (e.g. chair , director or owner)	Chair

Further information

- Dynamic Risk Management (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2017)

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

Children must be kept safe while on outings.

8.3 Supervision of children on outings and visits

Policy statement

Children benefit from being taken outside of the premises on visits or trips to local parks, or other suitable venues, for activities which enhance their learning experiences. We ensure that there are procedures to keep children safe on outings; all staff and volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures as laid out below.

Procedures

- All off site activity has a clearly identified educational purpose with specific learning and development outcomes.
- There is a designated lead for each excursion who is clear about their responsibility as designated lead.
- We ask parents to sign a general consent on registration for their children to be taken out on local short outings as a part of the daily activities of the setting. This general consent details the venues used for daily activities.
- We assess the risks for each local venue used for daily activities, which is reviewed regularly.
- We always ask parents to sign specific consent forms before major outings; and the risks are assessed before the outing takes place.
- An excursion will not go ahead if concerns are raised about its viability at any point.
- Any written outing risk assessments are made available for parents to see.
- Our adult to child ratio is high, normally one adult to two children, depending on their age, sensibility and the type of venue, as well as how it is to be reached.
- A minimum of two staff accompany children on outings. Unless the whole setting is on an outing, a minimum of two staff also remain behind with the rest of the children.
- Named children are assigned to individual staff member to ensure that each child is well supervised, that no child goes astray and that there is no unauthorised access to children. We ensure that all children on the outing are well supervised, that no child goes astray and that there is no unauthorised access to children.
- Staff frequently count their designated children and ensure hands are held when on the street and crossing the road.
- Parents who accompany us on outings are responsible for their own child only. Where parents have undergone vetting with us as volunteers, they may be included in the adults to child ratio and have children allocated to them.
- Outings are recorded in an outings record sheet kept in the setting, stating:
 - The date and time of the outing.
 - The venue and mode of transport used.

- The names of the staff members assigned to each of the children.
- The time of return.
- We take a mobile phone on outings, as well as supplies of tissues, wipes, spare clothing and nappies, medicines required for individual children, a mini first aid kit, snacks and water. The amount of equipment will vary and be consistent with the venue and the number of children, as well as how long they will be out for. We apply sun cream to children as needed and ensure they are dressed appropriately for the type of outing and weather conditions.
- We take a list of children with us with contact numbers of parents/carers, as well as an accident form and a copy of our Missing Child Policy.
- We provide children with 'high viz' vests to wear.
- Records are kept of the vehicles used to transport children, with named drivers and appropriate insurance cover.
- We ensure that seat belts are worn whilst travelling in vehicles and that booster seats and child safety seats are used as appropriate to the age of the child.
- As a precaution, we ensure that children do not eat when travelling in vehicles.
- We ensure that contracted drivers are from reputable companies, do not have unsupervised access to the children and are not included in the ratios.

Further Information

- Daily Register and Outings Record (2018)
- Dynamic Risk Management (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2017)

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Date to be reviewed

Annually or where deemed necessary

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Carol Nice

Name of signatory

Carol Nice

Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

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

Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks.

8.4 Risk assessment

Policy statement

We believe 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.

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 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 our 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 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.
- 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 who bring equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences; and
 - following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers.
- 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 and beach 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 ensure that we are familiar with the HSE guidance and risk assess accordingly/have seen the risk assessment relevant to the premises from the landlord.

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
- Dynamic Risk Management (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2017)

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Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group

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Annually or where deemed necessary

Carol Nice

Carol Nice

Chair

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 in the case of fire or any other emergency, and must have an emergency evacuation procedure.

8.5 Fire safety and emergency evacuation

Policy statement

We ensure the highest possible standard of fire precautions are in place. The person in charge and our staff are familiar with the current legal requirements. Where necessary we seek the advice of a competent person, such as our Fire Officer or Fire Safety Consultant. A Fire Safety Log Book is used to record the findings of risk assessment, any actions taken or incidents that have occurred and our fire drills. Downloadable Fire Safety Log Books are widely available free of charge on line. For group provision: We ensure our policy is in line with the procedures specific to our building, making reasonable adjustments as required.

Procedures

Fire safety risk assessment

- The basis of fire safety is risk assessment, carried out by a 'competent person'.
- The manager has received training in fire safety sufficient to be competent to carry out the risk assessment; this will be written where there are more than five staff and will follow the Government guidance Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006).
 - Our fire safety risk assessment focuses on the following for each area of the setting:
 - Electrical plugs, wires and sockets.
 - Electrical items.
 - Gas boilers.
 - Cookers.
 - Matches.
 - Flammable materials – including furniture, furnishings, paper etc.
 - Flammable chemicals.
 - Means of escape.
 - Anything else identified.
- Where we rent premises, we will ensure that we have a copy of the fire safety risk assessment that applies to the building and that we contribute to regular reviews.

Fire safety precautions taken

- We ensure that fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened from the inside.

- We ensure that smoke detectors/alarms and fire fighting appliances conform to BS EN standards, are fitted in appropriate high risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer.
- We have all electrical equipment checked. Any faulty electrical equipment is taken out of use and either repaired or replaced.
- 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, in partnership with The Wilson Marriage Centre.
- Records are kept of fire drills and of the servicing of fire safety equipment.

Emergency evacuation procedure

[Every setting is different and the evacuation procedure will be suitable for each setting. It must cover procedures for practice drills including:

- Who calls the emergency services, and when, in the event of a real fire.
- Children will be told about the fire alarms.
- Staff and parents will be informed where fire exits are located.
- When the alarm goes staff will follow set procedures displayed in the nursery.
- Register and contacts number for the children's parents will be taken out by a designated member of staff.
- Manager/deputy will do a head count as the children and staff leave the building. And the register will be taken at the designated assembly point.
- The centre fire wardens will notify when the staff can return to the nursery.
- In the event of a real fire the centre will contact the fire department.
- In the event of a real fire all parents will be contacted by telephone.

Fire drills

We hold fire drills in partnership termly and record the following information about each fire drill in the Fire Safety Log Book:

- The date and time of the drill.
- Number of adults and children involved.
- How long it took to evacuate.
- Whether there were any problems that delayed evacuation.
- Any further action taken to improve the drill procedure.

Legal framework

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Further guidance

- Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006)
- Fire Safety Record (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2015)

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Signed on behalf of the management committee

Carol Nice

Name of signatory

Carol Nice

Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

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

Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation (including fire safety and hygiene requirements).

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have any animals or creatures.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- Our staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up-to-date and recorded.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Legal framework

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

Further guidance

Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

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Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

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

Providers must have a no-smoking policy, and must prevent smoking in a room, or outside play area, when children are present or about to be present

8.7 No-smoking

Policy statement

We comply with health and safety regulations and the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage in making our setting a no-smoking environment - both indoors and outdoors.

Procedures

- All staff, parents and volunteers are made aware of our No-smoking Policy.
- No-smoking signs are displayed prominently.
- The No-smoking Policy is stated in information for parents and staff.
- We actively encourage no-smoking by having information for parents and staff about where to get help to stop smoking if they are seeking this information.
- Staff who smoke do not do so during working hours, unless on a scheduled break and off the premises.
- Staff who smoke during working hours and travelling to and from work must not do so whilst wearing a setting uniform, or must at least cover the uniform.
- E-cigarettes are not permitted to be used on the premises.
- Staff who smoke or use e-cigarettes during their scheduled breaks go to The Wilson Marriage Centre car park or well away from the premises.
- Staff who smoke during their break make every effort to reduce the effects of odour and passive smoking for children and colleagues
- Smoking is not permitted in any vehicles belonging to the setting.
- Staff are made aware that failure to adhere to this policy and procedures may result in disciplinary action.
- It is a criminal offence for employees to smoke in smoke-free areas, with a fixed penalty of £50 or prosecution and a fine of up to £200.

Legal framework

- The Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations (2006)
- The Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations (2012)

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Further information

- The New Early Years Employee Handbook (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2019)
- Recruiting Early Years Staff (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2016)
- People Management in the Early Years (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2016)

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment: Safety

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises

8.8 Staff personal safety including home visits

Policy statement

This setting believes that the health and safety of all staff is of paramount importance and that all staff have the right to work in a safe environment. We support safe working both on and off the premises, acknowledging the needs and diversity of children and their family.

Procedures

General

- All staff in the building early in the morning, or late in the evening, ensure doors and windows are locked.
- Where possible, at least the first two members of staff to arrive in the building arrive together, and the last two members of staff in the building leave together.
- Where it is necessary for staff to work alone (without children present), an assessment of risks should be made. When working alone a colleague should be notified of their movements, and staff should be vigilant when entering or leaving the building.
- Visitors are generally only allowed access with prior appointments and only admitted once their identity has been verified.
- Minimal petty cash is kept on the premises.
- When taking cash to the bank, members of staff are aware of personal safety. Managers carry out a risk assessment and develop an agreed procedure appropriate to the setting, staff and location.
- Members of staff make a note in the diary of meetings they are attending, who they are meeting and when they are expected back.
- Managers have good liaison with local police and ask for advice on safe practice where there are issues or concerns.

Home visits

Where staff members conduct home visits, this is done at the manager's discretion and the following health and safety considerations apply:

- Prior to a home visit the key person and manager undertake a risk assessment that is specific to the visit being undertaken.
- Members of staff normally do home visits in pairs – usually the manager/deputy manager with the key person.

- Each home visit is recorded in the diary with the name and address of the family being visited, prior to the visit taking place.
- Staff alert an agreed contact person in the setting when they are leaving to do the home visit and advise on their expected time of return.
- If there is any reason for staff to feel concerned about entering premises, they do not do so, for example, if a parent appears drunk.
- Members of staff carry a mobile phone when going out on a home visit.
- Staff identify an emergency word/phrase, which is made known to all staff in the setting, so that if they feel extremely threatened or in danger on a home visit they can covertly alert other members of staff via a telephone call to the situation. Use of the agreed word/phrase will initiate an immediate 999 call to be made.
- If staff do not return from the home visit at the designated time, the contact person attempts to phone them and continues to do so until they make contact.
- If no contact is made after a reasonable amount of time has passed, the contact person rings the police.

Dealing with agitated parents in the setting

- If a parent appears to be angry, mentally agitated or possibly hostile, two members of staff will lead the parent away from the children to a less open area, but will not shut the door behind them.
- If the person is standing, staff will remain standing.
- Members of staff will try to empathise and ensure that the language they use can be easily understood.
- Staff will speak in low, even tones, below the voice level of the parent.
- Members of staff will make it clear that they want to listen and seek solutions.
- If the person makes threats and continues to be angry, members of staff make it clear that they will be unable to discuss the issue until the person stops shouting or being abusive, while avoiding potentially inflammatory expressions such as 'calm down' or 'be reasonable'.
- If threats or abuse continues, members of staff will explain that the police will be called and emphasise the inappropriateness of such behaviour in front of children.
- After the event, details are recorded in the child's personal file together with any decisions made with the parents to rectify the situation and any correspondence regarding the incident.

This policy was adopted by

Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group

On

10th September 2013

Date to be reviewed

Annually or where deemed necessary

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Carol Nice

Name of signatory

Carol Nice

Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment: Safety

We are committed to ensuring that all children are safeguarded whilst in our care, and so with this in mind, parents/carers are required to follow and adhere to our conduct policy.

8.9 Parent/ Carers Conduct Policy

Policy statement

We aim to provide a friendly, safe and respectful environment for all children, staff, families and volunteers. The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder about the expected conduct from our parents/ carers and visitors.: We are committed to ensuring that all children are safeguarded whilst in our care, and so with this in mind, you can help us to maintain our responsibilities in the following ways:

Procedures

- Parents/Carers are expected to act respectfully, and any form of discrimination will not be tolerated (see equality policy) any behaviour of this kind could result in the child being removed from nursery without notice.
- Using inappropriate language or displaying aggressive or intimidating behaviour towards the staff, children or other parents/carers either in person, or on the phone or in writing is not tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately following our “staff personal safety procedure” – see policy.
- Keep up to date with fees. If fees are not paid on due date, 4 weeks’ notice will be given.
- Parents are required to pay the termly nursery fund payment. £12 per term or £36 per year.
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the nursery or any of the children, parents or staff at the nursery on Facebook or other social media sites will not be tolerated.
- Ensure that you share information with staff on your child’s development, health and well-being.
- Let us know if someone else is collecting your child and give them the password agreed between yourself and your child’s key person.
- Collect your child on time – if you are going to be unavoidably late then please contact the nursery to let us know.
- Discuss any worries, concerns or complaints with your child’s Key Person or the Nursery Manager, as appropriate. See the complaints policy for more guidance.
- Parents are required to give half a terms notice where the child is FEEE funded and 4 weeks’ notice where the child is not entitled to FEEE funding.

Failure to adhere to any of the above may place your child’s place at the nursery in jeopardy although this action will only be taken if all other avenues have been explored and the management feel it is the only possible course of action left open to us.

If the staff are presented with a difficult or volatile situation and they feel that an individual is at immediate risk of harm, then the police will be contacted and their assistance requested to help deal with the situation.

We believe that if the above points are adhered to a safe, friendly and respectful environment will be created.

Further guidance

- Please refer to our policies for further guidance if required.
 - 1.2 Child Protection
 - 8.8 Safety and suitability of premises, environment, and equipment
 - 9.0 Equal Opportunities
 - 10.10 Making a complaint

This policy was adopted by

Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group

On

18th November 2020

Date to be reviewed

Annually or where deemed necessary

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Carol Nice

Name of signatory

Carol Nice

Role of signatory (e.g. **chair**, director or owner)

Chair

8.10 Emergency Lockdown Procedure

Policy statement

We maintain the highest possible security of our premises to ensure that each child is safely cared for during their time with us. We recognise the potentially serious risks to children, staff and visitors in an emergency or harmful situation. **Lockdown** procedures are a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of children and staff in the nursery. In order to be prepared we will practice this once a term.

Procedures

- A lockdown will be initiated by a member of staff ringing the bell to gather all the children together and take them to the sensory room as quickly as possible. The nursery co-ordinator or manager will immediately call 999 or 101 and if appropriate the Chairperson. We will refer to the lockdown procedure to the children and staff as **“hideaway”** in order to not cause distress.
- If this should occur when inside the setting, staff will move the children out of sight to the sensory room, closing the door and taking the register. A landline phone is available to use in the playroom. **All staff** are to make their way to the sensory room.
- The deputy co-ordinator will complete the register and a head count of the children and staff whilst the nursery co-ordinator checks the premises for any other children and staff.
- Staff will secure all windows, doors and close all blinds where possible.
- If this should occur when children and staff are outside in the playground, a member of staff will shout **“hideaway”** staff will move the children out of sight as quickly as possible to the outside classroom room, closing the door and staying low. A member of staff is then to alert the office that there is a potential risk by using the Amazon Alexa inside the classroom. Office staff are to immediately call 999 or 101 and if appropriate the Chairperson.
- If staff and children are inside the nursery when this occurs outside. Staff and children are to make their way to the sensory room as quickly as possible. Again, management to take the register and liaise with the staff in the outside classroom via Amazon Alexa.
- Everyone will remain out of sight until further instructions are received from the emergency services.
- The staff will encourage the children to stay low and keep as quiet and calm as possible until the dangerous situation is over.
- If the fire alarm is activated, we will remain where we are unless the fire is in our area. In which case we will move to the next room/area, following our usual fire procedure.

Once the danger has passed

- When we are completely sure the danger is over, we will leave our safe place and continue our activities as before.

- The nursery coordinator will contact parents/carers and the chairperson if not already contacted, to inform of the incident. Records will be made of the event and actions will be recorded in our incident book. Ofsted and Early years will be informed within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

PARENTS SHOULD NOT:

- Contact the setting during a lockdown as this could potentially block telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency services.
- Should not come to the setting during lockdown as this may place themselves and others in danger or at risk.
- Parents/carers **SHOULD** wait for the setting to contact them about when it is safe for them to come and collect their child.

Further guidance

www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency/national-emergencies

Threat levels

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

LOW means an attack is unlikely.

MODERATE means an attack is possible but not likely.

SUBSTANTIAL means an attack is a strong possibility.

SEVERE means an attack is highly likely.

CRITICAL means an attack is expected imminently.

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and **report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321.**

For non-emergency calls to the police, call 101.

This policy was adopted by	Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group
On	April 2019
Date to be reviewed	Annually or where deemed necessary
Signed on behalf of the management committee	Carol Nice
Name of signatory	Carol Nice
Role of signatory (e.g. chair , director or owner)	Chair