Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

8.4 Risk assessment

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 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.

The basis of this policy is a five step risk assessment as follows:

- Identification of risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: childcare staff, children, parents, cooks, cleaners etc?
- Assessment as to the level of risk as high, medium, low. This is both the risk of 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 named person and a designated voluntary management committee member undertake training and ensure that 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 they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers and inspectors;
- checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, and in our premises and for 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.

The risk assessment is written and is reviewed regularly.

- 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. An annual risk assessment is also performed.
- We ensure 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.
- We ensure that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety for all areas of the premises.
- We ensure 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 are bring equipment or animals as part of children’s learning experiences; and
  * following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers.
- We ensure that staff members carry out risk assessments for off-site activities if required, including:
  * children’s outings;
  * other off-site duties such as attending meetings, banking etc.

Legal framework

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

Further guidance

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2011)

Associated forms

Health and Safety risk assessment template
Record of Hazardous substances
Parkgate Pre-school health and safety annual risk assessment

This revised policy was adopted at a meeting of Parkgate Pre-school name of setting
Held on 14 May 2018 (date)
Effective from 14 May 2018 (date)
Date to be reviewed 14 May 2019 (date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee C Hallam
Name of signatory Cassie Hallam
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) Chair

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Managing Risk (2009)

Change control log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Number</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Changes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>01-Mar-2012</td>
<td>Initial document release.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>04 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Policy Reviewed - information added in regards to precautions. Information added to Procedure and risk assessments being carried out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>03 Jan 2015</td>
<td>Policy Reviewed</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>12 Jan 2016</td>
<td>Policy Reviewed. Updated policy statement regarding the definition of risk assessments and how they inform procedures. Updated procedures relating to training. Updated Further Guidance document.</td>
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<td>6.0</td>
<td>12 Jan 2017</td>
<td>Policy Reviewed</td>
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