

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.

WORLINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

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, parent/carers, 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 parent/carers 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, parent/carers, 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 undertake training and ensure 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;
 - N/A [putting babies or 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.
- 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.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Outbreak: See Risk assessment for prioritised places at the back of this sheet

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 Duty holders (HSE 2012) www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf

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

This policy was adopted by	Worlingham Pre-School	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	7 th January 2021	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	November 2021/January 2022	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	_____	
Name of signatory	_____	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	_____	

8.4a - Risk assessment for prioritised places and staff shortages during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

This risk assessment has been devised to support providers in maintaining the safety and well-being of all children and staff as they offer prioritised places. It acknowledges that some of those places will be for vulnerable children who already have additional needs and who will require their existing risk assessment to be updated. The list of examples given here is not exhaustive and should be added to with any specific considerations for an individual setting. Additions and amendments should be added to this form and a new form completed and attached to this original form as required. A separate form should be used for individual children, whole groups and specific areas.

Room/area/group of children referred to in this risk assessment:

Assessment carried out by:

Assessment date:

Manager's signature:

Hazard (What are the risks you have identified?)	People (Who might be harmed)	Severity (How badly could they be harmed, in a worst case scenario?)	Likelihood (of harm with present controls)	Risk Level	Controls (What controls can be put in place?)	Further Action (What needs to be changed, by whom and by what date?)	Likelihood (of harm with extra controls)
<i>Examples</i> Maintaining adequate ratios Working with mixed age groups in one area Staff shortages Child becomes ill Practitioner becomes ill Maintaining allergy information Providing meals Children's emotional well-being Disruption of key person system	<i>Examples</i> Staff Children Student/s Volunteers Children with additional needs Staff with additional needs	<i>Choose one option:</i> Death; Major injury (Hospital/A&E/GP treatment required); Minor injury or Illness (First-aid required); Superficial injury or Discomfort (No first-aid); Emotional well-being.	<i>Choose from</i> Very likely; Likely; Remote.	<i>Choose from:</i> High Medium Low Insignificant	<i>Examples</i> Additional procedures Personal Protective Equipment Closing off unused rooms/areas in setting Children bringing own lunch	<i>Examples</i> Increased Supervision Changes to existing procedures Local Authority guidance Personal Protective Equipment Others as identified	<i>Choose from:</i> Very likely Likely Remote

If following risk assessment and control measures the level of risk remains high and the risk of harm remains very likely then the place should not be offered.