



Health and safety – 5.2 Health and safety general standards

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Policy Statement

Starlings Preschool maintains 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 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.

The members of staff responsible for health and safety are Lesley Rust and Sharon Jupp. They are competent to carry out these responsibilities.

We display the necessary health and safety poster in the staff kitchen cupboard.

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed on the notice board.

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.

Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.

Health and safety issues are explained 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 staff meetings.

We operate a no smoking policy, this includes the use of vapes.

Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

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, they are provided with safe equipment to do so.

All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages.

Adults do not 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 that need to be addressed.

We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested. It also states where they are stored.

We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.

Windows

Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.

Windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.

Doors

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



Floors

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

Electrical/gas equipment

All electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly. PAT testing is undertaken.

Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.

Electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded, and the children are taught not to touch them.

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 from 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.

When we have an outside sandpit, it is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly.

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 setting which includes our rooms, kitchen, 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.
- cleaning toilets regularly.
- wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate.
- providing sets of clean clothes.
- providing tissues and wipes.
- Using disposable towels.

Activities and resources

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 setting.

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 who are sleeping are checked regularly.

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.

Legal Framework

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm>



Guidance

<https://www.teachearlyyears.com/nursery-management/view/health-safety-in-the-nursery>

This policy was adopted by Starlings Preschool

On 6th September 2021

Date to be reviewed

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory Tricia Hunt

Role of signatory Chairperson