

# Risk Assessments

## Policy Statement

The nursery believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We endeavour to make our nursery a safe and healthy place for children, parents, practitioners and visitors by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

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.

This policy is based on the five steps which are detailed below:

- Identification of risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Practitioners, children, parents, cooks, cleaners etc.?
- Assessment as to the level of risk as high, medium or low. This measures the likelihood of it happening and the possible impact if it did.
- Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will we need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?
- Monitoring and review: How do we know if what we 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

- RUSU's health and safety representative will work with the nursery management to ensure that practitioners are adequately trained 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 practitioners practices, 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.

- We carry out a daily health and safety checks and act based on the findings of this check. It is the responsibility of the first qualified practitioner in each room to carry out this check, this includes the garden. It is the responsibility of the management team to check all other areas. Each room must communicate to the other that the garden has been checked before children are allowed access to the outdoor area.
- Risk assessments are reviewed periodically to account for any legislative changes and the frequency of accidents/incidents.
- Risk assessments are carried out for each individual off-site activity.
- We work with RUSU's and the University safety officers to help establish and reduce risk.
- The University of Reading takes precautions to reduce the risk of exposure to Legionella (Legionnaires disease).
- We work in line with Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)



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