

8.4 Risk assessment

Policy statement

Our 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.

This policy is based on the Pre-school Learning Alliance risk assessment processes, which follow five steps as follows:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, 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 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.
- 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 quarterly basis when a full risk assessment is carried out.

Legal framework

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

Further guidance

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2011)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Milford Pre-School Plus

Held on

21st April 2015

Date to be reviewed

By 21st April 2017

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Nicola Goode

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

Director

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Managing Risk (2009)