



Risk Assessment Policy

The EYFS (2024) states.... *“Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them”.*

“Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well”.

The Life Nursery ensures that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children are not exposed to risks and demonstrate how they manage risks through actively reviewing risk assessments.

Risk assessment

The Life Nursery believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. The Life Nursery ensures the setting is 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.

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 below:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents
- Assessment as to whether the level of a risk is 1. unlikely to happen, 2. might/less likely to happen, 3. possibly, 4. highly likely to happen, 5. will almost certainly happen. 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?

Procedures

- The Manager will undertake training and ensure all staff and volunteers have adequate training in health and safety matters upon induction
- The Life Nursery 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 The Life Nursery manages risks;
 - checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, in relation to the environment 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 Life Nursery risk assessments are written and reviewed regularly.
- The Life Nursery carries out a daily risk assessment of potential risks, which are checked 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.
- The 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.
- The Manager carries out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety for all areas of the premises.
- The 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;
 - putting 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 nursery who bring equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences; and
 - following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers.
- The Manager ensures 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.
 - The Life Nursery take precautions to reduce the risks of exposure to Legionella (Legionnaires disease).
 - The Manager ensures that all staff are familiar with the HSE guidance and risk assess accordingly/have seen the risk assessment relevant to the nursery.

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
- Health and Safety Law – What you need to know www.hse.gov.uk

The policy was reviewed by Louise Gray, Nursery Manager – September 2024

Read and signed by:

| Name | Date |
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See separate/individual risk assessments

