



Overall Approach to Risk Assessment

At Little Explorers Day Nursery and Preschool, we are committed to providing a safe, secure, inclusive and stimulating environment for all children, staff, parents, visitors, students and contractors.

We take all reasonable steps to ensure that children and adults are not exposed to unnecessary risks, in line with the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2025 and relevant health and safety legislation.

We recognise that risk is a natural part of children's learning and development. Our approach is to identify, assess and manage risks effectively, while still enabling children to explore, take appropriate risks and develop independence, confidence and resilience.

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is based on guidance from:

- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2025
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) - Managing risks and risk assessment at work
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)

Aims of the Policy

We aim to:

- Ensure all children are cared for in a safe and secure environment
- Identify and minimise risks to children, staff and others
- Support children to take appropriate, supervised risks as part of learning
- Ensure all staff understand their role in risk management
- Maintain compliance with EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements
- Promote a culture of vigilance, accountability and continuous improvement

Roles and Responsibilities

The Owner and Manager

- Has overall responsibility for health and safety and risk management
- Ensures appropriate systems, policies and training are in place

Manager / Floor Manager / Deputy Manager / DSLs

- Oversee implementation of risk assessments
- Ensure risk assessments are reviewed, updated and followed
- Monitor staff practice and compliance

- Take action following incidents, near misses or concerns

All Staff

- Must follow all risk assessments and safety procedures
- Carry out daily dynamic risk assessments
- Report hazards, incidents and concerns immediately
- Take appropriate action to reduce risk
- Understand safeguarding responsibilities linked to risk

Risk Assessment Procedures

Risk assessments are an essential part of our safeguarding and health and safety practice.

We follow the Health and Safety Executive approach to:

- Identify hazards
- Decide who may be harmed and how
- Evaluate risks and implement control measures
- Record findings where appropriate
- Review and update regularly

Each risk assessment includes:

- Area, activity or situation being assessed
- Identified hazards
- Who may be harmed (children, staff, visitors etc.)
- Existing control measures
- Level of risk (likelihood and severity)
- Further action required
- Person responsible
- Timescale for completion
- Review date

Types of Risk Assessments

We carry out risk assessments for:

Premises and Environment

- Indoor and outdoor areas
- Equipment and resources
- Entry and exit points
- Car park and external areas
- Fire safety and evacuation

Activities

- Planned activities (e.g. cooking, messy play, water play)
- Use of tools or equipment
- Physical play and climbing

- Food play and sensory activities

Individual Children

- Medical needs and allergies
- SEND or additional needs
- Behavioural risks
- Care plans and individual risk assessments

Operational Risks

- Staffing levels and ratios
- Lone working
- Supervision and deployment
- Collection arrangements

Specific Risk Areas

- COSHH (cleaning products and hazardous substances)
- Infection control
- Manual handling
- Pregnant staff
- Visitors and contractors

Dynamic Risk Assessment

In addition to written risk assessments, all staff carry out continuous dynamic risk assessment throughout the day.

This includes monitoring:

- Children's play and behaviour
- Changes in the environment
- Weather conditions
- Equipment safety
- Staffing levels
- Individual children's needs

Staff are expected to act immediately to reduce risk where needed.

Outings and External Activities

All outings are risk assessed in advance and include:

- Destination and route
- Transport arrangements
- Staffing and supervision ratios
- Individual children's needs
- First aid arrangements
- Emergency procedures
- Environmental and public risks

At least one staff member with a paediatric first aid qualification will be present at all times.

Further details are outlined in our Visits and Outings Policy.

Daily Safety Checks

Daily checks are carried out to ensure environments are safe before children arrive and throughout the day, including:

- Indoor environment
- Outdoor areas
- Toilets and hygiene areas
- Equipment safety
- Fire exits and access routes

Any hazards identified are removed, reduced or controlled immediately.

Accidents, Incidents and Near Misses

All accidents, incidents and near misses are:

- Recorded in line with nursery procedures
- Reviewed by management
- Used to inform updates to risk assessments

Where required, incidents will be reported under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR).

Fire Safety

Fire risk assessments are carried out in line with legislation and include:

- Fire detection and alarm systems
- Emergency exits and escape routes
- Fire drills (carried out regularly)
- Staff roles and responsibilities

Training and Staff Awareness

All staff receive:

- Health and safety induction
- Risk assessment training
- Safeguarding training
- Ongoing updates and refresher training

Staff are expected to demonstrate confidence and competence in managing risk.

Monitoring and Review

Risk assessments are:

- Reviewed at least annually
- Reviewed following incidents or near misses
- Updated when there are changes to the environment, staffing or activities
- Monitored by management for effectiveness

Supporting Guidance

Our approach is guided by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE):

“Managing risks and risk assessment at work”

www.hse.gov.uk/risk

We may also seek support from external professionals where appropriate.

Safeguarding

Risk assessment is a key part of safeguarding. Effective risk management helps to:

- Prevent harm and injury
- Identify unsafe environments or practices
- Protect children’s wellbeing
- Ensure staff are vigilant and responsive

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following legislative updates
- Following incidents or significant changes

This policy was adopted on	Reviewed
24/01/2022	4th May 2026