

Health & Safety Policy

The Health and Safety of your child is especially important to us, and we have, therefore, documented the following procedures that we have in place to support this.

Ratios

Our nursery legal ratios are 1:3 for under 2s, 1:5 for under 3yrs and 1:8 for 3 and over, increased to 1:13 for our QTS staff, however, due to the nature of our setting we try to adhere to 1:5 ratio where possible.

Play equipment.

We encourage the children in our care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide a range of resources to make it fun and enjoyable. In our setting we have a range of large outdoor equipment.

All children are observed one-to-one when using new equipment until they have learnt to risk assess themselves. Children will not be lifted onto the equipment.

Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.

Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment.

Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with, for example the climbing frame.

Sand and flour - We will only use sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source.

We will regularly ensure the sand is changed; in between we will sieve for foreign bodies and rinse through with a diluted sterilising agent if applicable. Toxoplasmosis can be spread from cats to humans through dirty sandpits. Toxoplasmosis can harm an unborn child but is usually a mild illness in children and adults. It causes a rash, swollen glands, fever and feeling unwell.

We will ensure the sand is covered to prevent it being contaminated by wildlife. We will ensure that the children are closely supervised whilst playing in the sand. We will teach them about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others eyes.

All children will wash hands after handling flour.

All equipment will be checked and cleaned as best they can after each activity to ensure they are safe for your child to use. Any broken or hazardous equipment will be removed immediately. Children will only be offered resources that are suitable for their age/stage of development.

Staff to complete ongoing dynamic risk assessments as they go about daily routines. It is the responsibility of all staff to report any hazards or risks immediately to management or maintenance. Unsafe areas to be roped off or equipment removed until this can be rectified.

Ensure that all new equipment and activities are fully risk assessed prior to its first use (see separate risk assessments).

COSHH risk assessment (see spreadsheet) completed and to be reviewed annually.

We will keep doors and gates shut to prevent the children from entering certain areas and the gates to the field are padlocked shut when we are on site.

All visitors to be signed in and out.

Register taken twice daily and regular head counts done over walkie talkie (see attendance policy).

We have procedures in place in the event of a fire (see separate policy).

Infection control and Hygiene routines to be adhered to (see infection control policy)

We ensure that the children do not have access to any waste, the bins are emptied daily, and any used nappies are double wrapped and placed in the designated nappy bin (away from the main nursery area).

We do not permit smoking in the setting (see separate policy).

We have strict Child protection guidelines in place (see safeguarding and child protection policy).

We have emergency contact details with us at all times should we need to contact the parents.

We will work with you to teach the children about safety issues like crossing the road and stranger danger.

We will work with you to teach the children about making healthy food choices (see healthy eating policy) and physical exercise.

We discourage the children from keeping 'secrets'.

We will restrain a child if they are putting themselves or others in danger, for example running into a road (see behaviour management policy).

Sun Protection

We will provide Lacura Sun factor 50 sun cream unless parents request and provide a separate product. Permissions recorded on Ovivio. Parents must provide a sun hat in summer month and warm hat and gloves in the winter months.

We will ensure that your child is wearing sun cream and wears a hat. We will also avoid spending prolonged periods of time in the direct sun during the hottest part of the day, and when out will try and protect your child by finding shady & covered areas. We request that closed toe shoes are provided as well as long trousers.

Fluid intake: this is particularly important in warm weather conditions to avoid dehydration. During hot weather children will regularly sit for stories and quiet time and be encouraged to drink.

Weather

We will monitor the weather daily and make the decision to go into the cabin if the children are cold or too wet, children to be kept in the cabin if gusts reach over 40 mph or during thunder storms. Children must arrive appropriately dressed for the weather and practitioners may refuse entry or ring parents if a child isn't adequately dressed and may be at risk. There is no specific temperature threshold that mandates school closure due to heat. This is to be risk

assessed individually by the setting based on the vulnerability of the cohort, the conditions on that day and those who need naps. Staff may impose alternative measures rather than closure such as revised clothing, water play and quiet activities. Staff have the right to close early if remaining open is deemed unsafe due to adverse weather conditions.

If you have any concerns regarding the health and safety of your child, please discuss them with us.

Clothing

It is important that all children arrive forest school ready in appropriate footwear, dungarees and waterproof coat (unless advised otherwise) as even in the summer months the ground can be wet in the morning. Staff have the right to refuse entry or send a child home if they feel a child isn't dressed appropriately for the weather and may be at risk. Staff will complete an ongoing dynamic risk assessment throughout the day to ensure children are dressed appropriately and are safe and well taking layers and waterproofs off if necessary. It is essential children wear long trousers in even summer months to protect against cuts, scratches, brambles, nettles and insects stings and bites. Long sleeves are preferable but can be compromised on in hot weather if assessed to be safe and the child is wearing adequate sun protection.

Adjustments to clothing for SEN can be done as long as it is risk assessed and considered safe, Safety is paramount therefore things to consider would be the environment, weather for that day, period of time, and staffing available. For example, adjustments such as bare feet for sensory adjustments could be facilitated as part of an activity or for a limited amount of time as long as there was an area that was safe to do it and enough staff to supervise it. Children should still come in fully dressed at the start of the day. All parents should be made aware that adjustments for SEN would be dependant on risk assessment and safety.

Manual Handling in Forest School

Correct handling techniques must be followed to minimise the risks of injury.

A variety of injuries may result from poor manual handling and staff must all be aware on how to lift items correctly.

The Forest School Leader is responsible for modelling safe manual handling to the children and assessing their age and ability whether it is safe and appropriate for them to move loads such as logs or rocks, due to the weight, size and shape, taking into consideration factors such as weather conditions.