



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.

We follow a five step risk assessment process:

1. Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
2. Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, cleaners etc?
3. Assessment as to whether the level of risk is high, medium, low. This takes into account both the likelihood of it happening, as well as the possible impact if it did.
4. Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will you need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?
5. 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.
- Our risk assessment is done on an annual basis or when there is a change to the normal routine of the nursery. Full risk assessments are followed before any large fundraising event

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such as our Autumn Evening or Meadow Mayhem. Our risk assessments are written down and signed by those carrying out the procedure and stored in our Health and Safety file.

- We maintain lists of health and safety issues, which are checked daily 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.

Legal framework

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2011)

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

Managing Risk (2009)

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Meadow Nursery School Parents' Association Committee | |
| Held on | 31 st March 2014 |
| Policy reviewed | September 2025 |
| Date to be reviewed | September 2027 |
| Signed by Chair | |
| Name | Samantha Foster-Kennedy |
| Signed by Nursery Manager | |
| Name | Debbie Hill |

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