The Nest
CARE & HOLIDAY CLUB

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

At the Nest, we are committed to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all children, staff, and visitors. This policy is designed to meet legal requirements and create a safe and secure environment for learning, play, and development. We comply with all relevant health and safety legislation to provide the highest level of care.

Relevant Legislation

This policy is underpinned by the following legislation:

• Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Provides the legal framework for ensuring a safe working environment.
• Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
Requires employers to carry out risk assessments and take steps to reduce risks.
• The Children Act 1989 and 2004
Ensures the welfare of children is paramount in all decisions and actions.
• The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2024
Sets standards for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5 years, including safeguarding and welfare requirements.
• Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002
Governs the handling, storage, and use of hazardous substances.
• Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013
Ensure the safe preparation, handling, and provision of food.
• Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
Requires the reporting of serious accidents, injuries, and dangerous occurrences to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) where applicable.
• Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
Governs safe manual handling practices to reduce the risk of injury.

Aims of the Policy

1. Ensure a Safe Environment
   We are committed to providing a safe, secure, and hazard-free environment for children, staff, and visitors in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

2. Promote Health and Wellbeing
   We promote physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing by ensuring good hygiene practices and healthy living standards.

3. Safeguard Children and Staff
   We comply with safeguarding requirements under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and ensure that child protection procedures are strictly followed.

4. Prevent Accidents and Incidents
   Through rigorous risk assessments and adherence to regulations like the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, we strive to prevent accidents and reduce risks.

Responsibilities

• Management and Leadership:

The management team is responsible for implementing and monitoring health and safety practices. This includes conducting risk assessments, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, and providing training.

• Staff Responsibilities:

All staff are required to follow health and safety procedures, report hazards, and ensure a safe environment for children. Staff are trained in first aid, fire safety, safeguarding, and emergency response procedures.

• Parental Responsibilities:

Parents must keep the preschool informed of any health concerns, allergies, or medical conditions that could affect their child's care. They must also ensure emergency contact details are up to date.

Health and Safety Procedures

1. **Risk Assessments**

- Regular risk assessments are conducted for the premises, activities, and equipment in accordance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- Assessments are updated regularly, and any identified risks are managed promptly to reduce hazards.

2. **First Aid**

- Trained first aiders are always present on-site. First aid kits are readily available, and any accidents are logged and reported under RIDDOR where applicable.
- Parents are informed of any incidents involving their child on the same day.

3. **Illness and Infection Control**

- Children who are unwell or showing symptoms of contagious illnesses must remain at home until they are fit to return. We follow UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance for infection control.

- In the event of a serious illness or outbreak, UKHSA guidelines will be followed.

4. Hygiene Practices

- The Nest follows the Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 to ensure food is prepared and served safely. All staff involved in food preparation hold relevant hygiene qualifications.
- Handwashing is encouraged and supervised, and toys and equipment are regularly cleaned to maintain hygiene.

5. Fire Safety

- Regular fire drills are conducted in line with the Fire Safety Order 2005. Fire alarms, extinguishers, and escape routes are checked regularly, and staff are trained on fire evacuation procedures.

6. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

- All hazardous substances, including cleaning supplies, are stored securely and used according to the COSHH regulations to minimize risks to children and staff.
- Staff handling such substances are trained in safe practices.

7. Supervision and Security

- Staff-to-child ratios are maintained according to the EYFS guidelines, ensuring children are always supervised.
- Access to the preschool is controlled, with secure entry systems in place to prevent unauthorized access. Visitors are required to sign in and be accompanied by staff.

8. Outdoor Play and Outings

- The outdoor play area is regularly inspected to ensure safety. Risk assessments are conducted for any trips or outings, and parental consent is obtained beforehand.

Emergency Procedures

• First Aid and Accidents:

- Any accidents, incidents, or injuries are recorded and shared with parents, and serious incidents are reported under RIDDOR to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) where applicable. First aiders respond promptly, and parents are informed immediately.

• Fire Evacuation:

- In the event of a fire, staff follow the evacuation procedure, ensuring all children and staff leave the building safely. Regular fire drills ensure everyone is familiar with the process.

• Illness and Medical Emergencies:

- If a child becomes unwell, parents are contacted to collect them. In a medical emergency, immediate medical attention is sought, and emergency services are contacted as required.

This policy was adopted at a committee meeting in 2017 and will be reviewed annually.

Signed on behalf of the Nest_____

Date Signed_____