

Health and Safety Policy

I promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of all children in my care in accordance with the EYFS Framework, Health and Safety Executive guidance and relevant government guidance.

Safety

- Children are welcomed individually on arrival, and parents are encouraged to share any relevant information about their child's health or wellbeing.
- A visitor log is used to record all visitors to the setting, including arrival and departure times and the purpose of the visit.
- The front door is kept secure and visitors are identified and supervised appropriately and at all times.
- Risk assessments are carried out and reviewed regularly to identify and reduce potential hazards.
- Smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and fire safety equipment are checked regularly. Fire drills are carried out and recorded.
- Equipment such as cots, highchairs, buggies and toys are regularly checked, cleaned and maintained, and replaced when necessary.
- Dangerous substances, tools, gardening equipment, and other unsuitable items are kept securely away from children.
- I hold a current paediatric first aid certificate which is renewed every 3 years.
- My car is regularly serviced, has a valid MOT and is insured for business use. Car seats are appropriate for the children using them and are checked regularly.
- I follow my Emergency Evacuation, Accident and Incident and Risk Assessment procedures.

Dogs and other animals

I will ensure children are kept safe around dogs and other animals. Any dog that may pose a risk to children will be kept securely away from them, and children will never be left unsupervised with a dog. I will consider the individual temperament and behaviour of any animal and take appropriate action to prevent children being exposed to a risk of injury. Children will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, how to behave safely around animals, including not approaching an unfamiliar dog or disturbing a dog while it is eating or sleeping.

Health and Hygiene

I promote good hygiene and healthy lifestyles by:

- Supporting children to wash their hands regularly, particularly on arrival, before eating, after using the toilet and after contact with animals.
- Maintaining good ventilation and regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, toys and equipment.
- Cleaning baby changing equipment after each use.
- Emptying and cleaning bins regularly.
- Promoting healthy eating, regular outdoor play, and physical activity.
- Supporting children to learn about good oral health and the importance of caring for their teeth.
- Following appropriate food hygiene procedures and using the Safer Food, Better Business for Childminders guidance.

- Keeping pets, pet food, and bowls away from food preparation areas and ensuring pets receive proper veterinary care.
- Using suitable protective equipment when necessary, particularly when dealing with bodily fluids.

All areas used by children are regularly checked to ensure they stay safe, clean, and suitable for their age and stage of development.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated when necessary.