Playhouse Nursery

Playhouse Nursery – Health and Safety Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Health and Safety Policy is to ensure that Playhouse Nursery provides a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all children, staff, parents, and visitors. The nursery is committed to preventing accidents, injuries, and health hazards through effective safety management and compliance with relevant health and safety standards.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff members, volunteers, students, children, parents, contractors, and visitors within Playhouse Nursery. It covers all indoor and outdoor nursery areas, activities, equipment, and facilities.

3. Health and Safety Commitment

Playhouse Nursery is committed to:

* Providing a safe environment for children to learn and play.
* Identifying and minimizing potential hazards.
* Promoting safe working practices among staff.
* Ensuring all equipment and facilities are safe and well maintained.
* Complying with health and safety regulations and best practices.

4. Responsibilities

Nursery Manager

The Nursery Manager is responsible for:

* Ensuring the implementation of the Health and Safety Policy.
* Conducting regular risk assessments.

* Ensuring staff receive appropriate health and safety training.
* Maintaining accident and incident records.
* Ensuring safety equipment is available and maintained.

Staff Members

All staff members must:

* Follow the nursery's health and safety procedures.
* Maintain a safe and clean environment.
* Supervise children appropriately at all times.
* Report hazards, accidents, or unsafe practices immediately.
* Participate in safety training and emergency drills.

Visitors and Contractors

Visitors and contractors must:

* Follow nursery safety procedures.

* Sign in and out at reception.
* Be supervised where necessary.
* Avoid entering restricted areas without permission.

5. Risk Assessments

Regular risk assessments are conducted to identify potential hazards and ensure appropriate control measures are in place.

Risk assessments include:

* Indoor play areas
* Outdoor play areas
* Equipment and toys
* Nursery activities and outings
* Kitchen and food preparation areas

All identified hazards must be addressed promptly.

6. Safe Environment

To maintain a safe environment:

* Floors and walkways must be kept clear of hazards.
* Spills must be cleaned immediately.
* Furniture and equipment must be stable and safe for children.
* Safety gates and door locks must be checked regularly.
* Cleaning products and hazardous materials must be stored securely out of children's reach.

7. Fire Safety

The nursery will ensure:

* Fire alarms and smoke detectors are installed and regularly tested.
* Fire exits are clearly marked and kept unobstructed.
* Fire drills are conducted regularly.
* Staff are familiar with evacuation procedures.
* Fire extinguishers are maintained and accessible.

In the event of a fire, staff must follow the nursery's evacuation procedures and ensure all children are safely escorted to the designated assembly point.

8. First Aid

* At least one trained first aider must be present at all times.
* First aid kits must be easily accessible and regularly checked.
* All accidents and injuries must be recorded in the accident report log.
* Parents must be informed of any injury sustained by their child.

9. Infection Control and Hygiene

Staff must follow infection control practices to prevent illness, including:

* Regular handwashing.
* Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and toys.
* Safe food handling procedures.
* Proper nappy changing and toileting hygiene.

Children who are unwell should not attend nursery until they have recovered.

10. Outdoor Safety

Outdoor play areas must be inspected daily to ensure:

* Equipment is safe and well maintained.
* Surfaces are free from hazards.
* Gates and fencing are secure.
* Children are supervised at all times during outdoor activities.

11. Safeguarding and Security

The nursery must ensure a secure environment by:

* Monitoring entry and exit points.
* Allowing only authorized individuals to collect children.
* Maintaining visitor records.
* Ensuring staff follow safeguarding procedures.

12. Training

All staff will receive health and safety training as part of their induction and ongoing professional development. Training may include:

* First aid
* Fire safety
* Risk assessment procedures
* Infection control
* Safeguarding and child protection

13. Monitoring and Review

The Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective and compliant with current regulations.

Policy Review Date: 05/03/2026

