

Health and Safety and Risk Assessment Policy

Policy statement

Stanmore Montessori 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.

- We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of health and safety issues and to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.
- Our member of staff responsible for health and safety is **Fabi Carrazedo**
- She is competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- She has undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates her knowledge and understanding.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster at school.
- We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed on the notice board in the classroom.

Procedures

Awareness raising

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues so that all adults are able to adhere to our policy and procedures as they understand their shared responsibility for health and safety. The induction training covers matters of employee well-being, including safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances.
- Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.
- Health and safety issues are explained to the parents of new children so that they understand the part played by these issues in the daily life of the setting.
- As necessary, health and safety training is included in the annual training plans of staff, and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.
- We operate a no-smoking policy throughout the building.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Supervision

- Ensure every child is within sight and/or hearing of a member of staff. Monitoring staff deployment across the setting to ensure children's needs are met.
- When using water play ensure children are fully supervised at all times as we are aware that children can drown in only a few centimeters of water
- Make sure staff recognise and are aware of any dangers relating to bushes, shrubs and plants when outdoors

- Supervise children at all times when eating
- Never leave children unattended during nappy change
- Supervise children carefully when using scissors or tools, including using knives in cooking activities.

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment or to change light bulbs they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages.
- Adults do not remain in the building on their own or leave on their own after dark.
- The sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues that need to be addressed.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested. It also states where they are stored.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.

Floors

- All floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven, wet or damaged.

Electrical/gas equipment

- All electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them.
- Storage heaters are checked daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- The temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

Storage

- All resources and materials from which children select are stored safely.
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

- All dangerous substances, including chemicals are kept in locked areas out of children's reach.
- All substances must be kept in their original containers with their original labels attached
- Risk assessments and data for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) must be kept and the appropriate personal protection taken e.g. gloves, apron.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly.
- Our outdoor activities are supervised at all times.

Hygiene

- We seek information from the Health Protection Agency to ensure that we keep up-to-date with the latest recommendations.
- Our daily routines encourage the children to learn about personal hygiene.
- We have a daily cleaning routine for the setting which includes main room, kitchen, toilet and nappy changing area.
- We have a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment, dressing-up clothes and furnishings.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities and the disposal of nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities
 - cleaning toilets regularly
 - wearing protective clothing as appropriate.
 - providing sets of clean clothes
 - providing tissues and wipes

Activities and resources

- Before purchase or loan, equipment and resources are checked to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting.
- The layout of play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.
- All equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.
- All materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.
- Sand is clean and suitable for children's play

- Physical play is constantly supervised
- Children are taught to handle and store tools safely
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow, such as why we wash hands, wipe noses etc.
- Any faulty equipment is removed from use and is repaired. If it cannot be repaired it is discarded
- Large pieces of equipment are discarded only with the consent of the leader/owner

Risk Assessment Procedures

Our risk assessment process covers adults and children and includes:

- Where helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues to inform staff practice.
- Checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, and in our premises and for activities.
- Assessing the level of risk and who might be affected.
- Deciding which areas need attention
- Developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the time-scales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required.
- The risk assessment is written and is reviewed regularly to cover potential risks to children, staff and visitors at the setting
- When circumstances change in the setting e.g. a significant piece of equipment is introduced, we review our current risk assessment dependent on the nature of this change
- 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.

Legal framework

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1992)
- Electricity at Work Regulations (1989)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (2002)
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1991 (updated 2002)
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2024