

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must have a clear and well-understood policy, and procedures for assessing any risks to children's safety, and review risk assessments regularly.

8.4 Risk assessment

Policy statement

Witchford Rackham Pre-School 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.

The basis of this policy is risk assessment. We follow the Pre-School Learning Alliance risk assessment processes below:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, cleaners etc?
- Assessment as to whether the level of a risk is high, medium, low. This takes into account both the likelihood of it happening, as well as the possible impact if it did.
- Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will you need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?
- 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
- As we have more than five staff members employed therefore risk assessments are completed. All setting risk assessments are reviewed termly or on a more regular basis if needed. When going on outings risk assessments are done to ensure the area the children are going to is safe as their safety is paramount as well as staff safety.
- 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. The Pre-school is responsible for Health and Safety checks and implement what is required including PAT Testing and Fire Safety including extinguishers.

Legal framework

- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Other useful Pre-School Learning Alliance publications

- Managing Risk (2009)

Further guidance

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2011)