

Health and Safety Policy and Procedure

As a childminding setting, we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children in our care. This policy outlines our procedures for maintaining a safe environment, and how we adhere to the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025) framework. We also outline our procedures for managing allergies and intolerances to ensure the safety of all children in our care.

Risk Assessment

We conduct regular risk assessments of our premises, equipment, and activities to ensure the safety of the children in our care. Risk assessments take into consideration the individual needs of each child, their age, stage of development, and any additional needs or disabilities. Risk assessments are reviewed regularly and updated as required. In line with EYFS 2025, risk assessment is an ongoing process that informs our daily practice, with written assessments completed where risks are higher or more complex.

Equipment and Facilities

We ensure that all equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children in our care. We regularly check equipment and facilities to ensure they are in good condition and safe to use, and that they meet relevant safety standards. Unsafe or damaged items are removed immediately.

Hygiene, Sanitation, and Toileting

We maintain high standards of hygiene and sanitation to prevent the spread of infection. All areas used by children are cleaned regularly, and good hygiene practices are promoted, including regular handwashing. Disposable gloves are used when necessary. Toilets and changing areas are sanitised frequently. We follow Sutton Council and UKHSA (Public Health) guidance on infection control, including recommended exclusion periods for illness.

We support children with toileting, toilet training and nappy changing in a safe, hygienic, and respectful way. Toilets and changing areas are kept clean and private, and children are encouraged to develop independence at their own pace.. Children's dignity and privacy are respected at all times. Parents are kept informed about toileting routines, accidents, or any concerns.

Managing Allergies and Intolerances

We take all necessary precautions to manage allergies and intolerances. Parents provide written information on any allergies or intolerances, and we carry out risk assessments to identify and minimise risks. Medication is stored and administered safely, and all adults working in the setting are aware of children's allergies and trained in how to respond. We ensure staff can recognise the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and know the emergency procedure.

Emergency Procedures

We have clear procedures in place for managing emergencies such as fire, flood, severe weather, and lockdown. For evacuations, children are taken to a designated safe place in the garden or, if necessary, an alternative location such as Royston Park/playground or a family

member's home. For lockdown situations (e.g. intruder, community risk), children are brought to a safe area indoors, doors and windows are secured, blinds or curtains drawn, and children reassured and distracted. Parents are contacted once it is safe to do so. We practise emergency procedures regularly so children and adults are familiar and prepared.

Safe Sleep

We follow safe sleep guidance to reduce the risk of sudden infant death. Babies are always placed on their backs to sleep, with no loose bedding or toys in cots. They are regularly checked while sleeping to ensure safety.

Sun Safety

We ensure children are protected during hot weather by providing shaded areas, encouraging regular fluid intake, and ensuring children wear hats and sun cream (with parental consent).

First Aid and Accidents

I (and my assistant) hold valid paediatric first aid certificates. First aid kits are available, maintained, and checked regularly. All accidents and incidents are recorded on carbon-copy forms, with one copy given to parents and one retained securely in line with statutory requirements.

EYFS 2025 Requirements

We adhere to the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025), which include ensuring that children are kept safe, healthy, and protected from harm. We provide a secure environment, promote healthy eating and physical activity, and follow safe practice in line with safeguarding and welfare guidance.

Review and Update

This policy is reviewed at least annually, or sooner if legislation, EYFS requirements, or Sutton Council guidance changes. Any updates are shared with parents and carers.