Risk Assessment

Policy

(2025–2026)

Risk Assessment Policy

1. Purpose

This policy ensures that all risks associated with activities, equipment, and the environment at Little Wonders Nursery are identified, assessed, and controlled to minimise potential harm to children, staff, and visitors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all nursery staff, children, and visitors at Little Wonders Nursery.

3. Risk Assessment Procedures

Identification of Hazards

Staff will identify potential hazards in the nursery environment, including:

- **Physical hazards**: Toys, furniture, outdoor equipment.
- **Environmental hazards**: Weather conditions, temperature extremes.
- **Procedural hazards**: Moving children between activities, food handling.

Risk Evaluation

Each identified hazard will be evaluated in terms of:

- **Likelihood**: Probability of occurrence.
- **Severity**: Potential impact of harm.

Control measures will be implemented to minimise risks, including:

- Removing or substituting the hazard.
- Reducing exposure.
- Providing appropriate supervision.
- Implementing infection prevention and control measures, such as promoting hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Ongoing Monitoring

The risk assessment process is ongoing. Staff will continuously monitor risks and make adjustments to activities or the environment as needed.

4. Special Risk Assessments

Outdoor Activities

Detailed risk assessments will be conducted before outdoor excursions, including trips to parks, playgrounds, or other public spaces.

New Activities or Equipment

Any new activity, equipment, or materials introduced to the nursery will undergo a thorough risk assessment before use.

5. Infection Control Measures

To prevent and control infections:

- **Hand Hygiene**: Staff and children will be encouraged to wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 15–30 seconds
- **Respiratory Hygiene**: Encourage covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- **Cleaning**: Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and toys.
- **Exclusion Periods**: Follow UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance on exclusion periods for infectious diseases, such as:
    - **Diarrhoea and Vomiting**: Individuals can return 48 hours after symptoms have stopped

6. Recording and Reporting

- **Documentation**: Risk assessments will be documented and stored for reference.

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- **Incident Reporting**: Any incidents or near-misses will be recorded to help evaluate and improve safety protocols.
- **Review**: Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect changes in activities, equipment, or guidance.