



Health & Safety Policy

The Health and Safety of your child is especially important to us, and we have, therefore, documented the following procedures that we have in place to support this.

Play equipment

We encourage the children in our care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide engaging resources to make it fun and enjoyable. In our setting we have a range of large outdoor equipment.

All children are observed one-to-one when using new equipment, until they have learnt to risk-assess themselves. Children will not be lifted onto the equipment.

Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.

Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment.

Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with, for example the climbing frame.

All equipment will be checked and cleaned as best they can after each activity to ensure they are safe for your child to use. Any broken or hazardous equipment will be removed immediately. Children will only be offered resources that are suitable for their age / stage of development.

Staff will complete ongoing dynamic risk assessments as they go about daily routines. It is the responsibility of all staff to report any hazards or risks immediately to management or maintenance. Unsafe areas will be roped off or equipment removed until this can be rectified.

All new equipment and activities are fully risk assessed prior to its first use (see separate risk assessments).

COSHH risk assessment (see spreadsheet) completed and to be reviewed annually.

We will keep the small office door shut to prevent the children from entering and the gates to the field are padlocked shut when we are on site.

All visitors to be signed in and out.

Register taken twice daily and regular head counts done over walkie talkie (see attendance policy).

We have procedures in place in the event of a fire (see separate policy).

Infection control and hygiene routines to be adhered to (see infection control policy).

We ensure that the children do not have access to any waste; the bins are emptied daily, and any used nappies are double wrapped and placed in the outdoor rubbish bin.

We do not permit smoking in the setting (see separate policy).

Reviewed by Jessica Timmins 05/11/24

We have strict child protection guidelines in place (see Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

We have emergency contact details with us at all times should we need to contact parents / carers.

We will work with parents / carers to teach the children about safety issues like crossing the road and stranger danger.

We will work with parents / carers to teach the children about making healthy food choices (see Healthy Eating Policy) and physical exercise.

We discourage the children from 'keeping secrets'.

We will restrain a child if they are putting themselves or others in danger, for example running into a road (see Behaviour Management Policy).

Sand and flour

We will only use sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source.

We will regularly ensure the sand is changed; in between we will sieve for foreign bodies and rinse through with a diluted sterilising agent if applicable. Toxoplasmosis can be spread from cats to humans through dirty sandpits. Toxoplasmosis can harm an unborn child but is usually a mild illness in children and adults. It causes a rash, swollen glands, fever and feeling unwell.

We will ensure the sand is covered to prevent it being used as a litter tray by cats and other visitors. We will ensure that the children are closely supervised whilst playing in the sand. We will teach them about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others' eyes.

All children will wash their hands after handling flour.

Sun Protection

We will provide Lacura Sun factor 50 sun cream unless parents request and provide a separate product. Permissions will be recorded on Blossom. Parents must provide a sun hat in summer months and warm hat and gloves in the winter months.

We will ensure that your child is wearing sun cream and wears a hat. We will also avoid spending prolonged periods of time in the direct sun during the hottest part of the day, and when out will try and protect your child by finding shady & covered areas. We request that closed toe shoes are provided as well as long trousers.

Fluid intake

This is particularly important in warm weather conditions to avoid dehydration. During hot weather children will regularly sit for stories and quiet time and be encouraged to drink.

Weather

We will monitor the weather daily and make the decision to go into the cabin if the children are too cold or wet. Children will be kept in the cabin if winds reach over 40 mph or during thunderstorms. Children must arrive appropriately dressed for the weather and practitioners may refuse entry or ring parents / carers if a child isn't adequately dressed and may be at risk. There is no specific temperature threshold that mandates school closure due to heat. This is to be risk assessed individually by the setting based on the vulnerability of the cohort and the conditions on that day. Staff may impose alternative measures rather than closure such as revised clothing, water play and

quiet activities. Staff have the right to close early if remaining open is deemed unsafe due to adverse weather conditions.

Clothing

It is important that all children arrive at Forest School ready in appropriate footwear, dungarees and waterproof coat (unless advised otherwise) as even in the summer months the ground can be wet in the morning. Staff have the right to refuse entry or send a child home if they feel a child isn't dressed appropriately for the weather and may be at risk. Staff will complete an ongoing dynamic risk assessment throughout the day to ensure children are dressed appropriately and are safe and well, taking layers and waterproofs off if necessary. It is essential children wear long trousers even in summer months to protect against cuts, scratches, brambles, nettles and insect stings and bites. Long sleeves are preferable but can be compromised on in hot weather if assessed to be safe and the child is wearing adequate sun protection. Please see below.

Adjustments to clothing for SEN can be done if it is risk assessed and considered safe. Safety is paramount, therefore things to consider would be the environment, weather for that day, period of time, and staffing available. For example, accommodations such as going barefoot to support sensory needs could be facilitated as part of an activity or for a limited amount of time, as long as there was an area where it was safe to do so and enough staff to supervise. Children should still come in to Forest School fully dressed at the start of the day. All parents / carers should be made aware that adjustments for SEN would be dependent on risk assessment and safety.

Manual Handling in Forest School

Correct handling techniques must be followed to minimise the risks of injury.

A variety of injuries may result from poor manual handling, and staff must all be aware how to lift items correctly.

The Forest School Leader is responsible for modelling safe manual handling to the children and assessing their age and ability as to whether it is safe and appropriate for them to move loads such as logs or rocks, due to the weight, size and shape, taking into consideration factors such as weather conditions.

If you have any concerns regarding the health and safety of your child, please discuss them with us.

For more information contact us:

T: 07950 709 042

E: wildexplorers1@outlook.com

Wild Explorers Forest School, Chester Road, Poynton

