

General Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment: Safety

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises. Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation.



8.1 Health and safety general standards

Policy statement

We believe 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, staff, and volunteers 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 members of staff responsible for health and safety are:

Ginny Jowett and Lee Davison

- They are competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- They have undertaken health and safety training and regularly update their knowledge and understanding.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster in
the kitchen

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed in the:

entrance hall

Procedures

Awareness raising:

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues so that all adults can 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 and includes safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances.
- We keep records of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.
- We explain health and safety issues 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/vaping policy.
- We make children aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.
- We carry out regular risk assessments, minimalizing any risk to both children and adults.

Safety of adults

- We ensure that adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment. Manual Handling training is given and refreshed regularly.
- 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.
- Fire safety procedures are displayed in each area. Regular fire drills are carried out to refresh knowledge.

Windows

- Low level windows are lockable and made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.
- We ensure that windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.
- Our windows above the ground floor are secured so that children cannot climb through them.
- We ensure that any blind cords are secured safely and do not pose a strangulation risk for young children.

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. If it is necessary to clean/wash a floor surface a clear sign is displayed to warn staff members for their safety.
- Stairgates are in place at the foot and top of the stairs.
- Walkways and stairs are left clear and uncluttered.

Electrical/gas equipment

- We ensure that 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, wires, and leads are properly guarded, and we teach the children not to touch them.
- We check storage heaters daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading. if any are at ground level, children are encouraged not to touch them.
- We ensure that the temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation are adequate in all areas including storage areas.
- Fire Marshal training is undertaken regularly by the owner and/or the Manager, and fire safety training is implemented annually as well as regular fire drills

Storage

- All our resources and materials which are used by the children are stored safely.
- All our equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.
- Any wires etc are stored safely and not left dangling.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced. All gates and fences are childproof and safe. Gates are locked whenever children are playing out to ensure their safety.
- 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.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; ensuring that sun cream is applied, and hats are worn during the summer months.
- We always supervise outdoor activities; and particularly children on climbing equipment

Hygiene

- We seek information from the Public Health England 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 the play rooms, kitchen, rest area, toilets, and nappy changing areas.
- 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 and before and after meal/snack times.
- cleaning and checking toilets regularly.
- wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate.
- providing tissues and wipes; and
- ensuring individual use of flannels, towels.
- Washing hands regularly.

Activities and resources

- Before purchase or loan, we check equipment and resources 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.
- We ensure that sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Equipment is cleaned regularly.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- We teach the children to handle and store tools safely.
- Children learn about health, safety, and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.
- We check children who are sleeping at regular intervals of at least every ten minutes. This is recorded with the times checked and the initials of the person undertaking the check.
- If children fall asleep in-situ, it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable. All sleeping children are checked at least every 10 minutes and this is documented by the relevant staff member.
- 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 owner/manager.
- PAT testing is carried out annually.

Jewellery and accessories

- Our staff do not wear jewellery or fashion accessories, such as belts or high heels, that may pose a danger to themselves or children.
- Parents must ensure that any jewellery worn by children poses no danger; particularly earrings which may get pulled, bracelets which can get caught when climbing or necklaces that may pose a risk of strangulation.
- We ensure that hair accessories, bibs etc are removed before children sleep or rest.

Control of substances hazardous to health

- Our staff implement the current guidelines of the *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)*.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used and where they are stored.
- Hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children.
- We carry out a risk assessment for all chemicals used in the setting. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers (except for Esteem which is diluted for everyday use – antibacterial spray)
- We keep the chemicals used in the setting to the minimum to ensure health and hygiene is maintained. We do not use:
 - Bleach (except in our Sani-Flow toilets, and this is used when the children are not in the setting).
 - anti-bacterial soap/hand wash, unless specifically advised during an infection outbreak such as Pandemic flu; or
 - anti-bacterial cleaning agents, except in the toilets, nappy changing area, and food preparation areas.
 - We do however use hand sanitiser upon entry to the building and each room/area.
- Environmental factors are considered when purchasing, using, and disposing of chemicals.
- All members of staff are vigilant and use chemicals safely.
- Members of staff wear protective gloves when using cleaning chemicals.

Legal framework

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) updated December 2023
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) updated October 2023
- Electricity at Work Regulations (1989) published 2015
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (2004) amended 2024
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) (As Amended 2004)
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992)
- The Regulatory Reform (fire safety) Order 2005 updated 2022

Further guidance

- Early Years Statutory Framework (2025)
- Health and Safety Law: What You Need to Know (HSE Revised 2024)
- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)
- Health and Safety- an Early Years Alliance mini guide
- Electrical Safety and You: A Brief Guide (HSE 2012)

- Working with Substances Hazardous to Health: What You Need to Know About COSHH (HSE Revised 2009) amended 2024
- Getting to Grips with Manual Handling-Frequently Asked Questions: A Short Guide (HSE 2011) published 2020
- Manual Handling Awareness-EYFS Resources-online course 2020 (audited 2024)

This policy was adopted by	Jolly Tots Preschool Nursery	name of provider
on	1 st September 2025	(date)
Date to be reviewed	September 2026	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management		
Name of signatory	Lee Davison	
Role of signatory (e.g., Chair/owner)	Manager	