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Statement of intent

The management (in most cases this will be the childminder) recognises that as an employer the provision has a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of any employees, whether paid or voluntary. The childminder also recognises that he or she has a responsibility to any other people who may be affected by the activities of the provision.

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act, the childminder maintains safe working conditions and ensures that all employees, paid or voluntary, are aware of, and practice, safe systems of working.

This policy and the childminder's practices will be reviewed periodically and kept up to date in accordance with any changes in legislation.

Policy approved by _____ **Date** _____
Childminder

There is some useful information on the Health and Safety Executive's website www.hse.gov.uk

Health and Safety Policy

Specific responsibilities

The overall and ultimate responsibility for health and safety in the provision rests with the management by:

- ensuring that the Health and Safety Policy is satisfactorily implemented
- ensuring that all new employees, whether paid or voluntary, are aware of and observe the policy
- conducting a full investigation of any accidents or incidents that result in injury.

All employees, whether paid or voluntary, have a responsibility for health and safety including the safety of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

As such, they should familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety Policy of the provision and the safe practices appropriate to their place of work.

Staff responsibilities

Ensuring all electrical appliances are checked on an annual basis by a competent person.

Routinely checking that all electrical appliances in the provision are usable and reporting any defects to the management.

Checking and keeping the First Aid Box stocked.

Accidents

Prevention and reporting

Maintenance of property and equipment to ensure personal safety is the overall responsibility of the management. All employees, whether paid or voluntary, are responsible for the correct and safe use of all property and equipment in the provision and for reporting any faults or hazards to their supervisor or the management.

The aim of any policy relating to accidents must stress that in the first instance every effort should be made to avoid an accident happening. The following list provides an indication of areas which need special attention.

- Wet floors should have signs.
- Equipment should not be left turned on when unattended or in a position which could cause people to trip over it.
- Doors and drawers should be closed when not in use.
- Equipment should be stored in a safe manner in cupboards.
- Filing cabinets should not be overloaded.
- Climbing onto chairs or desks should not be permitted. Suitable equipment should be used to reach high levels.
- Step-ladders must be properly adjusted and secured. If more than the three lower steps are to be used it needs to be supported by a second person.
- Correct methods must be employed when lifting or moving heavy objects.
- Working areas must be kept tidy and clear of obstruction.
- Fire doors must not be wedged open.

This list is not exhaustive.

Employees, paid or voluntary, have a duty to:

- report any accidents to their immediate supervisor
- help determine the cause of any accident
- help in any subsequent investigation with the aim of preventing a recurrence.

A report of all accidents should be brought to the attention of the management.

Accident logs

All accidents resulting in personal injury must be recorded in the relevant accident log.

Completed accident logs should be used to inform your risk assessment and behaviour management policy.

RIDDOR

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

All registered providers of day care for children under eight have responsibilities under this legislation. There is useful information on the Health and Safety Executive website at

www.hse.gov.uk/riddor

In brief you must report certain work-related incidents to the Health and Safety Executive. If you are unsure whether to report it call the Incident Contact Centre on **0845 300 9923**. They can advise you if you do need to report specific incidents and about what records you should keep.

You should report any of the following happening to a member of the public, including a parent or child, or an employee on your premises.

- A death or major injury, which includes a fracture (but not of fingers, thumbs or toes), an amputation, dislocation, permanent or temporary loss of sight, and an injury from an electric shock.
- A reportable disease.
- A dangerous occurrence, which didn't but could have resulted in a reportable injury.
- An injury resulting in hospital admission.
- Over three day injuries (including acts of physical violence) - where an employee or self employed person is away from work or unable to perform their normal work duties for more than three consecutive days.

Remember you are required to report such incidents, as well as various other events, to Ofsted.

First aid boxes

These are kept in the same place as the accident logs. It is the responsibility of the childminder (or named Health and Safety Officer if appropriate) to ensure directly, or by delegation, that the box is properly stocked.

For up-to-date details on the content of a first aid box contact the British Red Cross on **0870 170 9222** or St Johns Ambulance on **08700 104950**.

The provision must have an appointed first aider. For details of first aid training providers contact the Early Years and Childcare Service on **0800 056 36 66**.

Cleanliness of premises

The provision must recognise that it has a duty to set appropriate standards of cleanliness throughout its premises and to maintain these by:

- investigating and acting on any accidents or incidents that have occurred because of a lack of cleanliness
- providing enough funding to achieve and maintain a good standard of cleanliness
- providing facilities for the safe and convenient storage of cleaning equipment and materials
- promoting good housekeeping practices among employees and other users of the premises.

All employees, whether paid or voluntary, have a responsibility to maintain a good standard of cleanliness by:

- observing good personal and environmental hygiene practices
- carefully disposing of rubbish into suitable bags or containers provided, particularly where broken glass or dangerous waste is concerned
- tidying up and putting away equipment and materials after use
- cleaning up spillages, debris and litter as soon as possible
- reporting any shortfalls in standards to the appropriate person.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

Chemicals are widely used for a variety of processes in office work and cleaning, and some are extremely hazardous. To comply with these regulations a list will be kept by the childminder or Health and Safety Officer of all hazardous or potentially hazardous substances that are used in the provision. A copy of this list will be kept at the setting.

In addition to chemicals, all body fluids are to be treated as substances hazardous to health and should be carefully dealt with using protective gloves and materials that can be safely disposed of.

The childminder or Health and Safety Officer is to be informed of any hazardous substances which are to be brought onto the premises for use by employees, paid or voluntary or other users.

Any person(s) using such chemicals must observe the following guidelines.

- All substances which are included on the COSHH list, including bleach and general household chemicals, are to be stored in a safe place preferably under lock and key.
- All hazardous substances including; bleach, solvents and glues containing solvents are to be used with care.
- Always read the label before use and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Avoid inhalation and ingestion of and skin contact with all chemical substances.
- Always wear the appropriate protective clothing such as gloves, masks, safety glasses
- Products must never be mixed as this could give rise to hazardous by-products – for example bleach will give off chlorine gas if mixed with an acidic cleanser such as Harpic.
- Those using the substance must be familiar with the first aid procedures to be used in the event of an accident.
- In the interests of Health and Safety, substances hazardous to health should only be used if there is not a less harmful or harmless alternative.

Driving safety

The provision has a responsibility to make sure that where transport is arranged for their users people who do the driving are aware of the Driving Safety Policy.

All people driving on behalf of the provision have a responsibility for their own safety and to make sure that their acts or omissions do not endanger the safety of others. They also have a responsibility to adhere to the principles laid out in this policy.

If on occasions, a person uses their own vehicle for transporting service users, it is their responsibility to make sure that their vehicle is properly insured for business use, taxed, has a current MOT and is roadworthy.

Principles of safe driving

- All drivers must hold a current and relevant licence.

- All drivers must read and observe the Highway Code.
- Speed limits must be observed.
- Seat belts must be worn at all times and appropriate car seats must be used when transporting babies and children.
- The authorised number of passengers must not be exceeded.
- Passengers must not be allowed to alight until it is safe for them to do so.
- Vehicles must not be left with the engine running when parked or being refuelled.
- Drivers must not be under the influence of alcohol during the provision's business.
- Drivers are reminded that smoking, or other distracting actions while driving is not allowed.
- The safety of the unborn child must be considered in the case of pregnant female drivers and medical advice in relation to pregnancy and driving must be respected.
- Drivers need to be aware that they need to notify their insurance company to make sure that they are adequately covered.
- Mobile phones must not be used unless there is a hands-free application in the vehicle.

Electrical safety

It is the responsibility of all users to inspect appliances for issues like loose wiring and faulty plugs before using them. Electrical faults must be reported immediately. Faulty equipment must be removed from use and clearly labelled. No-one should attempt to repair the equipment themselves.

Electrical faults could include:

- equipment not working
- loose wiring
- broken casing around wires or applications
- electrical arcing (sparks)
- plugs becoming warm.

All employees, whether paid or voluntary, have a responsibility to observe basic principles of electrical safety as well as inspecting appliances before use. The following advice should be followed.

- Ensure that hands are dry before using an electrical appliance.
- Ensure that adequate instructions are obtained before using unfamiliar electrical equipment and comply with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Leads should never be pulled to remove a plug or to lift or move an appliance.
- Switch off at the mains, unplug and put away all electrical equipment (where appropriate) when not in use.
- Sockets must not be overloaded by the use of adaptors - when in doubt err on the side of safety or seek qualified advice.
- If extension cables are used then these must be placed in such a way so not to cause a hazard to anybody else.
- All electrical equipment will be maintained on a routine basis.

Environment and the workplace

The provision is legally obliged to maintain a safe and acceptable working environment as far as is reasonable and practicable. Employees, paid or voluntary, have a responsibility to co-operate to maintain this environment. Useful advice and guidance can be found on the Health and Safety Executive's website at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg259.pdf

Lighting

Lighting must be suitable and sufficient in every part of the provision through which people either pass or work. Doorways and potential hazards like steps must be well lit. Artificial lighting apparatus must be properly maintained and fluorescent lights must be flicker free.

Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005

These regulations apply to all workplaces requiring assessment of noise levels and the taking of appropriate preventative action where excessive.

Space

Space around machinery and equipment must be adequate to ensure that safe working practices are achievable.

Heating

The provision must make sure that a reasonable temperature (not less than 16 centigrade) can be maintained in every room in which people are employed to work.

Ventilation

Ventilation must be effective and suitable to ensure circulation of adequate supplies of either fresh or artificially purified air.

If you are an employer you should display a Health and Safety Law poster (ISBN: 9780717663149) on your premises. A useful leaflet for employees; *Health and Safety Law* is also available (ISBN: 9780717663521)

You can get both of these items from the Health and Safety Executive website at www.hsebooks.com/books

VDUs

For safe operation the Visual Display Units (VDUs) needs to be properly installed and consideration given to the following points.

- Make sure that the screen is sharp, clean and individual characters can be easily read.
- The characters should not flicker or move.
- There should be no reflection on the screen.
- Make sure that there is adequate lighting to the desk surface next to the machine.
- Make sure that the user's chair has an adjustable height and back support so that a proper sitting position can be maintained.

Fire precautions

The management is responsible for making sure that precautions are taken against fire through the routine maintenance of fire safety equipment, through reviewing and posting emergency fire procedures in buildings and educating employees, paid or voluntary, in safe practices.

It is the duty of all employees, paid or voluntary, to co-operate in implementing this policy and to report to the management any instances where the property procedures are not being carried out, for example wedging open fire doors, escape routes obstructed by furniture or rubbish and not reporting faulty electrical equipment.

The provision must operate a no smoking policy in the premises. It is the responsibility of each individual smoker to make sure that they only smoke outside the building and ensure that their cigarette is properly extinguished.

In the event of a fire don't panic – follow the fire procedure.

Do not tackle the fire unless:

- you have been trained to do so
- you feel able to do so
- you do not put yourself at risk
- the fire is small.

Remember the important thing is to save lives, not property.

Example fire procedure

If you discover a fire:

- immediately raise the alarm
- leave the building, assisting with the evacuation of the children
- if appropriate, pass the care of the child/ren to the nearest member of staff
- tackle the fire if possible with the appliances provided, but without taking personal risk.

On hearing the fire alarm:

- (name of nominated person) will call the Fire Service immediately
- dial 999 and ask for the Fire Service
- wait for the Fire Service to answer
- give the full address clearly
- evacuate the children in your care using the nearest available exit and keep the children together
- proceed to the assembly point at
- the person in charge will take a roll call to ensure that no-one has been left in the building.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do not re-enter the building until told to do so by the Fire Service.

You can get more information on fire safety from www.communities.gov.uk

Food handling

The provision has a responsibility to maintain acceptable levels of hygiene and health and safety for food.

All employees, paid or voluntary, who handle food, have a responsibility to:

- maintain a high standard of personal hygiene
- refrain from handling food when they or anyone at home are suffering from an infectious disease or have boils, ulcers, cuts or rashes, diarrhoea, eye, ear or throat infection or any untoward discharge
- adhere to the provision's Health and Safety Policy
- report shortcomings to the appropriate person, for example, faulty or damaged storage, preparation and service equipment.

Principles of safe food handling

All foods must be checked to make sure they are of the quality, substance and temperature required and that they are within their use-by-dates.

All foods must be stored under conditions which will prevent their deterioration. Instructions on the label, if present, should be followed.

Remember **keep it clean – keep it cool – keep it covered**.

Food, and food only, must be stored in areas designated specifically for that purpose, such as refrigerators and cupboards.

Saucepan handles should not overhang stove or worktop edges.

Any food or liquid spills must be cleaned up immediately.

When cooking food, recipes or packet instructions must always be followed.

Food not eaten at the meal for which it was prepared and served must not be kept or offered for service at a later time.

Signs of any type of pest infection must be reported immediately.

You can get more advice and guidance from www.eatwell.gov.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/en/HealthAndWellBeing/HealthyLiving

Principles of safely using equipment in catering areas

All electrical equipment must be switched off and the plug removed from the power source when it is being cleaned or not in use.

Refrigerators, freezers and other types of temperature control equipment must be routinely checked to ensure their effectiveness.

All equipment must be used according to manufacturer's instructions.

Doors and lids of equipment in use should fit securely.

Hob burners, grills and ovens must always be turned off when not in use.

All cooking equipment should be checked when in use to make sure it is functioning correctly. Any slight electrical shocks received from the equipment must be reported immediately.

All equipment and working surfaces must be kept in a clean and hygienic condition.

Cleaning chemicals should be used at the prescribed dilution rate.

Health and hygiene

The provision should recognise that hygiene is a basic part of any health and safety programme. As such, the management is responsible for ensuring that the premises are cleaned regularly and that a good standard of cleanliness is achieved overall. Washing and toilet facilities need to be provided and maintained.

Any shortcomings should be reported immediately to the management who will ensure that the necessary action is undertaken.

Employees, paid or voluntary and other users, have a responsibility to ensure that their personal hygiene meets an acceptable standard and that they observe good environmental hygiene practices, for example by using the appropriate waste bin for disposing of rubbish.

Induction and training

All employees, paid or voluntary, should read through the Health and Safety Policy as part of their induction programme. The management has a duty to make sure they are aware of current legislation and that relevant information is passed to the appropriate person.

Lifting and manual handling

The provision has a moral and legal responsibility to its employees, paid or voluntary, to reduce the risk of work associated back problems and other lifting and carrying injuries.

It is important to note that the handling of loads applies to lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing, pulling, holding or moving by bodily force any discreet moveable object including a person.

For general guidance, all employees may from time to time have to lift or handle some objects. Firstly consider whether it is necessary to lift the object, consider if there are any alternatives and if you are at all unsure do not attempt to lift. You are responsible for your own safety and for the safety of those you work with.

If you decide to proceed with the lifting activity the correct way to lift is:

- keep the back straight
- place the feet slightly apart
- bend the knees
- grip firmly (with palms not fingertips), then lift slowly holding the object as close to your body as possible
- do not twist the body during the lifting procedure.

You can get more information from the Health and Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf

Water and electricity points

State the location of the electricity meter and fuse board as well as the water stopcock.

Reviewing the policy

Your Health and Safety Policy will need to be reviewed every two years, unless a change in legislation leads to a shorter review period or there are changes in the activities or personnel of the provision which require changes to be made.