

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is my policy to promote and ensure the good health and safety of children in my care in line with the requirements laid out in the EYFS Framework, by the Health and Safety Executive and Department for Education COVID-19 guidance.

(www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)

Procedure (how I put the statement into practice)

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment

I operate an arrival and departure routine to ensure social distancing measures are followed. You will be asked to drop off and collect your child at a mutually agreed, designated time and to stand in the agreed area outside my home, keeping a safe distance from other families.

Parents will not be invited into the setting unless there is a specific need. However, if you need to speak to me, we can arrange a mutually suitable time and method. Please contact me via telephone, WhatsApp or email to arrange.

In order to ensure children's safety in my setting I have a range of safety equipment e.g. stair gates and playpens, which are regularly checked to ensure they are in good repair.

My smoke alarms are tested regularly and fire drills are carried out and recorded. I have a fire blanket in my kitchen and children and parents are aware of my emergency evacuation procedure. I have a plan of my setting in the playroom and fire exits are clearly marked on this. This can be emailed to parents on request.

My premises are secure to ensure children's safety and prevent intruders and I have a procedure for checking the identity of essential visitors, e.g. Ofsted Inspectors. All visitors on my premises must wear face coverings (masks or face shield), sanitise their hands on entry and at regular intervals during their visit. High touch areas will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day, in line with my COVID risk assessment.

I will ensure that I take all reasonable steps to ensure all children in my care are not exposed to risks and I will demonstrate how I manage risk.

My risk assessments will identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom these aspects will be checked and how I will remove or minimise the risk. I will carry out a general, detailed risk assessment annually and also a daily risk assessment for every area of my premises that the children will have access to. Separate risk assessments will be carried out for any outings and I will aim to carry out a pre-visit to any places where I have not been to previously.

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All equipment used in my childminding business is regularly checked for damage and wear and tear and replaced when necessary, for example high chairs, buggies, cots.

My car is regularly serviced has an up to date MOT and is insured for business use.

All car seats are checked regularly and used correctly in accordance with the government rules www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules. Children will be measured to ensure the car seat is of the correct dimensions for them.

All gardening equipment is locked in the shed, and dangerous plants have been removed.

I hold a current paediatric first aid certificate.

Health

I encourage children to learn about good hygiene by promoting regular hand washing and discouraging them from touching their mouth, eyes and nose where possible. Children are supervised and encouraged to sing the 'Wash, wash, wash your hands' song to ensure that they wash for the full 20 seconds. This occurs on arrival at the setting, after coughing or sneezing, before eating or any individual food preparation, after touching any pets, after using the toilet. There are also Hand Washing posters and prompts in the toilet. Children have access to a child height sink, antibacterial handwash and their own individual towel which is hung on a named peg and washed regularly.

Bins will be regularly emptied and cleaned.

I will ensure good ventilation by opening windows/vents.

When providing meals and snacks, children are encouraged to make healthy choices and the benefits of an active lifestyle are promoted, e.g. access to outdoor play daily. I am aware of the Chief Medical Office guidance to physical activity.

Regular disinfecting of all surfaces, including tables, door handles, sinks and taps, toilet flush, etc takes place following the Government guidance.

Baby changing mats are cleaned and sanitised after each use.

I have registered with my local environmental health department, and ensure correct storage, hygiene of food preparation areas and preparation of food are carried out. I hold a basic food hygiene certificate and have a copy of the Safer Food, Better Business for childminders pack.

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My pets are kept away from food preparation areas and their food bowls are out of reach of children. All pets are regularly vaccinated and up to date with worming and flea treatment. My garden is inspected for dog faeces daily and once removed, the area is sprayed with a disinfectant.

All areas accessible to children including toys and equipment are regularly cleaned, disinfected and checked for damage. A risk assessment has been carried out to identify toys that may pose the greatest risk, and steps have been taken to minimise that risk. Where messy/malleable play activities are provided, these will be available to individual children and not shared.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations, e.g. gloves for nappy changing/assisting with toileting, sudden onset of illness which involves bodily fluids (vomit, diarrhoea) and/or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID 19 while in attendance at the setting.

This policy links with my accident and emergency procedures, illness, risk assessment, no smoking and outings policies. Please refer to these policies for further information.

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	
Parent(s)' name	
Parent(s)' signature	
Date	

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Date policy was written	18 th February 2021
This policy is due for review on the following date	18 th February 2022