

Safety Checks

EYFS: 3.54, 3.64, 3.65

At Start Well Learning we make sure the setting is a safe environment for children, parents, staff and visitors by carrying out safety checks on a regular basis in accordance with the timescales set out in the setting checklists. These include daily checks of the premises, indoors and outdoors, and all equipment and resources before the children access any of the areas. The checks are recorded to show any issues and solutions.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the fire safety, risk assessments, visits and outings and the equipment and resources policies.

All staff should be aware of potential hazards in the setting's environment and monitor safety at all times.

Risk assessments

Risk assessments document the hazard, who could be harmed, existing controls, the seriousness of the risk/injury, any further action needed to control the risk, who is responsible for what action, when/how often will the action be undertaken, and how will this be monitored and checked and by whom.

The setting carries out written risk assessments at. These are regularly reviewed and cover potential risks to children, staff and visitors at the setting. When circumstances change in the setting, e.g. a significant piece of equipment is introduced; we review our current risk assessment or conduct a new risk assessment dependent on the nature of this change.

All staff are trained in the risk assessment process to ensure understanding and compliance.

All outings away from the setting are individually risk assessed. For more details refer to the visits and outings policy.

For further support with the risk assessment process The Five Steps to Risk Assessment publication and risk assessment templates can be downloaded from the Health and Safety Executive's website at www.hse.gov.uk

Electrical equipment

- All electrical equipment is PAT tested annually.
- All electrical cables are kept out of the reach of children wherever possible and shielded by furniture where they need to be at floor level
- Electrical sockets are all risk assessed and any appropriate safety measures are in place to ensure the safety of the children.

Dangerous substances

All dangerous substances including chemicals MUST be kept in locked areas out of children's reach. All substances must be kept in their original containers with their original labels attached. Safety Data Sheets (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)) and risk assessments must be kept for all substances and the appropriate personal protection taken and used e.g. gloves, apron and goggles.

Hot drinks and food

Hot drinks must only be consumed in the kitchen/staff area. No canned drinks, sweets or crisps are to be kept or consumed in the main room.

Transport and outings

The setting has a comprehensive documented policy relating to outings, which incorporates all aspects of health and safety procedures including the arrangements for transporting and the supervision of children when away from the setting.

Room temperatures

- Staff should be aware of room temperatures in the setting and should ensure that they are suitable at all times. There is a thermometer in the room to ensure this is monitored
- Staff must always be aware of the dangers of young children being too warm or too cold
- Temperatures should not fall below 16°C.
- Where fans are being used to cool rooms, great care must be taken with regard to their positioning.

Water supplies

- A fresh drinking supply is available and accessible to all children, staff and visitors
- All hot water taps accessible to children are thermostatically controlled to ensure that the temperature of the water does not exceed 40°C.

Gas appliances

- All gas appliances are checked annually by a registered Gas Safety Register engineer
- Carbon monoxide detectors are fitted.