Keeping Children Safe Policy

As a registered childminder, I am committed to ensuring that all children in my care experience a safe, clean, and nurturing environment where they can play, learn, and develop. I adhere to the **Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) requirements** and the **National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare** to promote best practices in health and safety.

**Daily Safety Checks**

Each morning before children arrive, I complete a **quick risk assessment** to ensure everything is safe and ready for the day. This includes:

* Checking toys and play areas for any hazards.
* Ensuring electrical equipment and sockets are safe, with wires secured.
* Making sure safety gates, cupboard locks, and fire safety equipment are in place.
* Checking that all surfaces and toys are clean and hygienic.

**Infection Control and Hygiene**

A clean environment helps keep everyone healthy! I follow strict hygiene routines, including:

* Teaching children to wash their hands properly before meals, after outdoor play or using the toilet.
* Regularly cleaning and sanitising toys, surfaces, and equipment.
* Following food storage and preparation guidelines to keep meals safe *(see separate Food and Healthy Eating Policy).*
* Emptying bins daily and ensuring used nappies are placed in the purple absorbent hygiene products bag inside the bin next to the changing table.
* Requesting that children stay home if they are unwell to prevent the spread of infections. *(see separate Illness Policy).*

**Fire and Emergency Procedures**

Emergencies are rare, but I am fully prepared. I:

* Check smoke alarms monthly and practice fire drills with the children so they understand what to do.
* Have a clear evacuation plan and keep emergency contact details with me at all times. *(see separate Emergency Evacuation Procedure).*
* Keep a fully stocked first aid kit and have up-to-date paediatric first aid training.
* Do not permit smoking or vaping in my home.

**Safe Indoor and Outdoor Play**

Children learn best through play, and I make sure they can do so safely by:

* Selecting toys and equipment suitable for each child's age and development.
* Removing broken or unsafe toys immediately.
* Supervising children at all times, whether indoors or outdoors.
* Keeping outdoor play areas secure and ensuring children dress appropriately for the weather.
* Regularly monitoring sleeping children.

**Outings and Travel Safety**

For trips to parks, playgroups, or other locations, I take extra precautions:

* Younger children are securely strapped into buggies or wear wrist straps/harnesses.
* Older children hold hands or stay close to me.
* I teach children road safety, including stopping at crossings and looking both ways.
* I use Extended Rearward Facing (erf) seats for all children under 5 years and only move them into a high-back booster seat when they have outgrown the erf seats. I ensure all car seats are correctly fitted and appropriate for the child's age and stage. Before departure, I check that all children are securely strapped in.
* My car is regularly serviced and will have a valid MOT certificate when it is required. My car insurance covers business use.
* When on outings, such as visits to the park, children will not be allowed to wander off and will always be supervised.
* When attending playgroups or other indoor activities, children will remain in my care at all times. I will not leave a child alone with another person unless I know they have been DBS checked, such as another registered childminder.
* If a child is putting themselves or others in danger (e.g., running into the road), I will physically intervene to keep them safe.

**Food Safety and Allergies**

I take food safety seriously and follow best practices by:

* Storing, preparing, and serving food safely. *(see separate Food and Healthy Eating Policy).*
* Keeping records of children’s dietary requirements and allergies.
* Cutting food into appropriate sizes to reduce choking risks (e.g., cutting grapes lengthwise).
* Encouraging children to sit while eating and supervising all mealtimes.

**Child Protection & Safeguarding**

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

**Accidents and First Aid**

Even with the best precautions, minor accidents may occur. If your child has an accident while in my care:

* I will record what happened and inform you as soon as possible. *(see separate Accident & Incident Policy).*
* If first aid is needed, I will provide treatment and let you know what was done.
* For serious incidents, I will contact emergency services (999) immediately and inform you straight away.
* My First Aid box is clearly labelled, properly equipped and kept in a suitable, accessible place. I also have a smaller First Aid kit in the car for when we are out and about.
* Parents are required to give written consent for any emergency treatment and for any medication to be administered by me.
* Any prescribed medication must contain the child’s own name on the bottle and all medicines must be in their original container before I can administer the medicine to the child.
* I have an up to date First Aid Certificate, as does my assistant. These are renewed every 3 years when we attend a Paediatric First Aid course.

**Building security and equipment maintenance**

I have in place general safety measures to prevent accidents, i.e. stair gates, fire guards. I also carry out regular maintenance checks on equipment (toys, car seats, highchairs, buggies etc.) and remove / replace any broken items.

My front and side doors are kept locked at all times. This is to prevent unwanted persons entering these premises and also to prevent any children from walking out of the house. The back door is kept locked unless we are in the back garden. Keys are kept on hooks that are easily accessible to adults. The side and front gates to the back garden are also kept bolted.

**Working Together for Safety**

I believe in working in partnership with parents to keep children safe. You can help by:

* Keeping me updated on **emergency contact details** and any medical conditions.
* Letting me know if your child has been unwell before arriving.
* Dressing your child appropriately for the weather and activities.
* Talking to me about any safety concerns or suggestions you may have.
* Informing me if a change is made to the person who is collecting your child and if it is someone whom I haven’t met before then a password must be used before I will allow your child to leave my care

I inform the Care Inspectorate Wales at the earliest opportunity of the following:

* Changes in members of staff, or people living on my premises
* Changes in name or home address of any of the above
* Significant changes to the premises or any change of address
* Significant changes to the type of care or in the hours in which the care is provided
* Infectious disease, serious injury or death
* Allegations of serious harm or abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises
* Any other significant event likely to affect the suitability of myself as a registered childminder, or likely to affect the welfare of the child.

This policy was designed by Little Rosebuds with regard to the following legislation.

**The National Minimum Standards for regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years**

* Standard 24: Safety
* Standard 23: Equipment
* Standard 22: Environment

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| Date this document was last updated – | 24/04/25 – reworded whole policy  |
| Dates reviewed – | ~~24/04/25~~, 15/06/25 |
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