Managing Risk Policy

Children need and want to take risks when they play. I aim to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, I aim to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury.

I aim to manage the level of risk by:

* Giving the highest priority to health and safety of the children
* Carrying out regular risk assessments by
	+ Identify the hazard – this can be either physical (e.g. broken play equipment), emotional (how the children are feeling), behavioural (how the children in the setting are behaving) or environmental (e.g. strong wind, animals)
	+ Decide who might be harmed and how
	+ Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
	+ Record my findings and implement them
	+ Review my assessment and update if necessary
* Making changes to my practice where hazards or risks reoccur

I have risk assessments in my file that cover the house, garden, car and the regular places we go to on outings. These are reviewed regularly (at least once a year, and if something has been changed or added to the environment in between visits). Before I take the children to a new place on an outing, I will either visit the place first by myself to carry out a risk assessment on the area, or I will find the risk assessment of that place on their website.

I conduct a daily risk assessment before opening the setting each morning, and a monthly risk assessment to make sure that the environment and all my policies and procedures ensure the level of risk is acceptable.

During the day, I am constantly assessing the level of risk when the children are playing and will intervene if I feel that the level of risk has become unacceptable.

Should an accident occur, part of my accident procedure is to review the relevant risk assessments to make sure that they cover all possibilities and to update them accordingly, so that a similar accident will not happen again.

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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