



RISK AND CHALLENGE POLICY

Challenges and risks play a vital role in a child's cognitive and physical development. Taking risks and facing challenges enables children to think about their different skills and capabilities and in turn to develop strategies to overcome risk when in new situations. It also helps to develop the child's self-esteem, confidence and pride by thinking through and overcoming the challenge.

As role models, we frequently show children new skills and help them work their way through new challenges and problems. However, at times children need to work these out for themselves. It is suggested that children will learn more when they are actively thinking about what they are doing, rather than being given instructions to follow. Children need to have opportunities to experience challenges or their understanding of safety will not move forward.

The Early Years Foundation Stage focuses on the importance of children taking reasonable risks. To allow this to happen, Nursery Practitioners will recognise a risk, examine hazards, then balance the likelihood of an accident happening and take the appropriate action if necessary.

Principles of sensible risk management:

- providing overall benefit to the children by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus of reducing real risks
- ensuring that those who create risk, manage it responsibly and clearly understand that the failure to do so will lead to robust action by management
- enabling individuals to understand that as well as the right to protection, they also have the right to exercise responsibility.

Sensible risk management is **NOT**: creating a totally risk-free environment or reducing protection from real risks that will cause them real harm. (Health and Safety Executive - www.HSE.gov.uk)

As a setting we will ensure that:

- children are given a wide range of opportunities to approach 'risk and challenge' situations.
- all staff will be vigilant and, if they deem something dangerous, will modify or halt the activity. Any equipment used for risk and challenge will be supervised when the children are playing on or with the equipment.

Policy reviewed – January 2025

Policy to be next reviewed – January 2026 Day Nursery Manager

- children will be supported appropriately by staff members during their 'risk and challenge' experiences.
- risk assessments will be carried out on equipment to ensure no child is in danger in the setting.