

Physical Environment & Equipment

Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are written conducted and reviewed on a regular basis. The risk assessments should cover anything which may affect the safety and well-being of the child, staff, or visitors to the nursery. (See risk assessment file).

The regulations of the "Health and Safety at Work Act 1974" should be adhered to and any other relevant legislation such as the Welfare requirements set by Ofsted, COSHH & RIDDOR.

The Health & Safety poster is displayed in the staff room.

Staff are encouraged to undertake in house and on-line training to update their knowledge in health & safety procedures.

Every action is taken to ensure that Bell House Nursery is a safe environment for all

Indoors

- Bell House Nursery is physically accessible to all children, staff, and visitors (See Inclusion Policy)
- Parents and children are greeted into a warm, friendly, and welcoming environment. This will be established through staff attitude, positive images, and child ownership of the setting e.g., displaying children's work.
- All children will have an identified space in which to keep their belongings including their coat, bag, and anything they wish to share during their time at the nursery
- Each room is risk assessed before the arrival of the children each day ensuring that anything hazardous is noted and rectified. Each room's risk assessments are kept in a folder in each room, these are reviewed yearly. Blank risk assessments are available for if needed for unforeseen events/risks e.g., if a child comes in with a broken arm.
- The equipment is checked for safety each day and is cleaned/sterilised on a rotational basis, or before if necessary
- The layout of equipment and activities is accessible and inviting to all children using the room, creating a continuous learning environment by following the EYFS.
- The children are encouraged to take care for their own environment by tidying away after each activity and by respecting the materials provided. Drawers and containers are categorised and labelled as the children are encouraged to tidy up.

- Room temperatures are monitored inside all rooms of Bell House Nursery to ensure they are safe and promoting a healthy environment. Windows are opened for fresh air to ventilate throughout in all the rooms. Air conditioning is used in the under 2-year-old rooms through the hotter seasons and fans are fixed to the walls around the 2-5-year-old rooms downstairs.

Outside

- When playing outside, children will be suitably dressed for the weather i.e., coats fastened and hats and gloves on, for cold weather. During the summer months, hats and sunscreen are used to prevent the children from the sun rays.

- Registers are taken outside to ensure these are kept up to date when children are dropped off and collected in the room.

The outside checklist is carried out on the outdoor area each day, before use, and any hazardous situations, are noted and rectified. All gates and entrances are checked to ensure these are locked and safe for the children and adults outside. All equipment being used outside is checked for cleanliness and safety. Any unsafe items are removed immediately from use.

- The outdoor area is an extension of the indoor learning environment and as such, will be arranged in an appealing, interesting and varied manner for the children, on a daily basis. The children and staff will tidy and maintain this after each session, in preparation for the next.

- Wherever possible and when it is safe to do so, free flow play between the indoor to outdoor environments are facilitated. However, no child is left alone in either area

Sleeping arrangements

- Resting and sleeping arrangements for all children are discussed with the parent/carer to ensure consistency of routines is met for the child.

- Children and babies are checked regularly when asleep and recorded on a sleep chart positioned outside the room.

- The Ladybird and Butterfly room has its own sleeping area whereby 'on demand' sleeping arrangements can be made for each child.

There are several younger Bumblebees that also have a designated sleep area in their room.

Equipment Policy

Statement of intent

We believe that high quality early years care and education are promoted by providing children with safe, clean, attractive, developmentally appropriate resources, toys and equipment.

Aim

We aim to provide children with resources and equipment that help to consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills, interests, and aptitudes.

Methods

To achieve this, aim we:

- Provide play equipment and resources that are safe and - where applicable - conform to the BSEN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995).
- Provide enough equipment and resources for the number of children.
- Provide resources that promote all areas of children's learning and development, which may be child or adult led.
- Select books, equipment and resources that promote positive images of people of all ethnic backgrounds, cultures, and abilities, are non-discriminatory and avoid racial and gender stereotyping.
- Provide play equipment and resources that promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenge, and meet the needs and interests of all children.
- Provide made, natural and recycled materials that are clean, in good condition and safe for the children to use.
- Provide furniture that is suitable for children and furniture that is suitable for adults.
- Store and display resources and equipment where children can independently choose and select them.
- Regularly check all resources and equipment that are available at each session and ensure they are stored appropriately at the end of each session. We repair and clean, or replace, any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment.

Reviewed by Clare Hayes and Amelia Pullen

Review Date: March 2023

Next Review Date: March 2024