



Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

8.1 Health and Safety – General Standards

Policy Statement

At Impact Montessori Nursery, the health, safety and wellbeing of children, staff, parents, volunteers and visitors are of paramount importance.

We are committed to providing a safe, secure, clean and well-maintained environment in which children can learn, play and develop. We take reasonable steps to identify and minimise risks while recognising that children need appropriate opportunities to develop confidence, independence and an understanding of safe risk-taking.

We comply with relevant health and safety legislation and the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The current EYFS framework requires providers to maintain safe premises and equipment, carry out appropriate risk assessments, promote good hygiene and take reasonable steps to protect children and adults in an emergency. Help for Early Years Providers+1

Responsibilities

- The Nursery Manager has overall responsibility for health and safety.
- The person responsible for day-to-day health and safety is:

Name: _____

- The person responsible is competent to carry out their duties and receives appropriate training and updates.
- All staff, volunteers and students have a shared responsibility for maintaining health and safety standards.
- Staff must report hazards, accidents, defects or concerns immediately to the Nursery Manager.
- Health and safety matters are discussed during staff meetings, supervision and training as appropriate.
- Required health and safety information and notices are displayed on the nursery notice board at the main entrance.

Insurance

- Impact Montessori Nursery maintains appropriate insurance cover, including public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance where required.
- Current insurance certificates are displayed on the nursery notice board and/or are available for inspection.

Staff Induction and Awareness

- Health and safety forms part of the induction process for all staff, volunteers and students.
- Induction includes:
 - emergency procedures;
 - fire safety and evacuation;
 - accident and incident reporting;
 - safe lifting and manual handling;
 - safe use and storage of equipment;
 - infection prevention and hygiene;
 - safe storage of medicines and hazardous substances;
 - safeguarding and supervision;
 - safer working practices.
- Staff receive appropriate ongoing health and safety training.
- Children are supported to understand health and safety through everyday routines, discussions and age-appropriate activities.
- The nursery operates a **No-Smoking and No-Vaping Policy**.

Premises and Equipment

Windows

- Windows are maintained in a safe condition and checked regularly.
- Low-level windows are appropriately protected where there is a risk of accidental impact or breakage.
- Windows at height are secured where necessary to prevent children climbing through or falling from them.
- Blind and curtain cords are secured so that they do not present a strangulation risk.

Doors and Entrances

- Doors and gates are maintained in good working order and kept secure.
- Appropriate measures are used to minimise the risk of children's fingers being trapped in doors.
- External doors and gates are not left unsecured when children are present.
- Fire exits remain accessible and unobstructed.

Floors, Walkways and Stairs

- Floors and walkways are checked regularly and kept clean, dry and free from hazards.
- Spillages are dealt with immediately.
- Walkways, corridors and stairways are kept clear.
- Stairs are appropriately protected and stair gates are used where required by the age and needs of the children.
- Any damaged flooring or other hazards are reported and dealt with promptly.

Electrical and Heating Equipment

- Electrical equipment and installations are maintained and inspected as required.
- Damaged electrical equipment, cables or plugs are removed from use immediately.
- Electrical sockets and equipment are positioned or protected to prevent children accessing them where necessary.
- Electrical equipment is switched off when not required.
- Boilers, meters, fuse boxes and other potentially hazardous equipment are inaccessible to children.
- Radiators, heaters, hot surfaces and exposed cables are appropriately protected.
- Hot water is maintained at a safe temperature to reduce the risk of scalding.

- Heating, lighting and ventilation are appropriate for the areas being used.

Storage

- Equipment, resources and materials are stored safely and securely.
- Heavy items are stored at a safe level to reduce the risk of falling objects.
- Furniture and shelving are stable and secured where necessary.
- Cleaning products, medicines and other hazardous substances are stored securely and out of children's reach.
- Staff ensure that children cannot access unsuitable equipment or materials.

Outdoor Area

- Outdoor areas are securely enclosed and gates are kept closed and secure.
- The outdoor area is checked before children use it.
- Staff check for hazards including broken equipment, sharp objects, animal faeces, unsafe plants, standing water and other potential risks.
- Outdoor equipment is checked regularly and removed from use if it is unsafe.
- Climbing and other physical play equipment is appropriately supervised.
- Water play and other activities involving water are appropriately supervised.
- Sandpits are covered when not in use and maintained hygienically.
- Garden chemicals, pesticides and other hazardous substances are securely stored away from children.
- Outdoor activities are adapted according to weather conditions.
- Children are appropriately dressed for outdoor play, including suitable clothing, footwear, sun protection and weather-appropriate layers.
- Sun protection is provided in accordance with the nursery's procedures and parental arrangements.

Hygiene and Infection Prevention

- The nursery maintains high standards of cleanliness and hygiene.
- Cleaning routines cover play areas, toilets, kitchen/food preparation areas, rest areas, nappy-changing facilities and frequently touched surfaces.
- Children do not have unsupervised access to the kitchen or food preparation areas.
- Toilets and handwashing facilities are kept clean and appropriately stocked.
- Children are supported to develop good handwashing and personal hygiene habits.
- Tables and surfaces are cleaned appropriately between activities and after food preparation or eating.
- Staff use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves and aprons, when required.
- Children have access to tissues and appropriate facilities for disposing of used tissues.
- Personal items such as towels, flannels and toothbrushes are not shared between children.
- Cleaning schedules are maintained for equipment, toys, furnishings and other resources.
- Infection control procedures are reviewed in line with current public health guidance.

Food, Drink and Allergies

- Food and drink are prepared, stored and served hygienically.
- Food allergies, intolerances and dietary requirements are identified, recorded and communicated to relevant staff.
- Appropriate procedures are followed to prevent cross-contamination and allergic reactions.

- Children are appropriately supervised while eating and drinking.
- A member of staff with a valid paediatric first aid certificate is available in the room when children are eating, as required by the EYFS. GOV.UK
- Staff follow the nursery's Food Safety, Allergies and Safer Eating procedures.

Activities, Resources and Repairs

- Equipment and resources are checked to ensure they are suitable for the children's age, stage of development and individual needs.
- Resources are maintained in a clean and safe condition.
- Faulty or damaged equipment is immediately removed from children's access.
- Repairs are arranged promptly.
- Equipment that cannot be safely repaired is disposed of appropriately.
- The layout of rooms allows children and adults to move safely.
- Materials such as paints, glues and other creative resources are suitable for children's use.
- Children are supervised when using tools, cooking equipment or other potentially hazardous resources.
- Appropriate risk assessments are completed for higher-risk activities.

Sleeping Children

- Children who sleep at nursery are provided with a safe and appropriate sleeping environment.
- Sleeping arrangements comply with the current EYFS safer-sleep requirements.
- Sleeping children are checked frequently to ensure they remain safe and comfortable.
- Sleep checks are recorded in accordance with the nursery's sleep-monitoring procedures.
- Staff follow the nursery's **Safer Sleep Policy** and individual children's sleep requirements.

Jewellery and Accessories

- Staff should not wear jewellery or accessories that could present a risk to themselves or children.
- Particular care is taken with necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, long scarves, loose accessories and items that could become caught or pulled.
- Parents are advised to consider the safety of jewellery and accessories worn by children.
- Hair accessories and other items are removed where they may present a risk during sleep, physical play or other activities.

Staff Health and Safety

- Staff receive guidance on safe lifting, manual handling and the movement of equipment.
- Appropriate equipment is provided for tasks requiring staff to reach or work at height.
- Staff must not undertake tasks beyond their training or competence.
- Staff report work-related accidents, injuries, illnesses and near misses to the Nursery Manager.
- Records are maintained and reviewed to identify recurring issues and opportunities to improve safety.
- Staff are expected to take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others affected by their work.
- Staff must not work while impaired by alcohol, illegal drugs or medication that affects their ability to safely perform their duties.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

- Impact Montessori Nursery complies with the **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)**.
- Cleaning products and other hazardous substances are kept to the minimum necessary.
- Hazardous substances are securely stored away from children.

- Products remain in their original, clearly labelled containers wherever possible.
- COSHH assessments are completed where required.
- Staff follow manufacturers' instructions and relevant safety information when using chemicals.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, is used when required.
- Cleaning chemicals are never left unattended where children could access them.
- Chemicals are not mixed unless specifically permitted by the manufacturer.
- Staff report spills, exposure or other incidents immediately.
- Hazardous substances are disposed of safely and responsibly.

HSE guidance confirms that COSHH requires employers to assess risks from hazardous substances and prevent or adequately control exposure. HSE

Emergency and Fire Safety

- The nursery maintains appropriate emergency procedures, including fire evacuation procedures.
- Fire exits are clearly identifiable, accessible and kept free from obstruction.
- Fire detection and firefighting equipment is maintained and checked as required.
- Staff receive appropriate fire safety and emergency evacuation training.
- Emergency procedures are practised regularly and records are maintained.
- Staff are familiar with the procedures for contacting emergency services and safeguarding children during an emergency.

The EYFS requires providers to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others in the event of fire or another emergency and to have appropriate emergency evacuation and fire safety arrangements. GOV.UK Assets

Accidents, Incidents and First Aid

- At least one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate is available on the premises and able to respond when children are present, in accordance with EYFS requirements. GOV.UK
- Staff follow the nursery's **First Aid Policy** and **Recording and Reporting of Accidents and Incidents Policy**.
- Accidents, injuries and first aid treatment are appropriately recorded.
- Parents/carers are informed of accidents and injuries involving their child as soon as reasonably practicable and in accordance with the nursery's procedures.
- Serious accidents, injuries, illnesses and other notifiable events are reported to Ofsted and/or other relevant authorities where required.

Risk Assessment

- Risk assessments are completed for the nursery premises, activities and identified hazards.
- Risk assessments consider who may be affected, the likelihood and potential severity of harm, existing control measures and any further action required.
- Staff are expected to follow agreed control measures.
- Risk assessments are reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change, accident, incident, near miss or newly identified risk.
- Staff are encouraged to report hazards and contribute to improving health and safety arrangements.

Monitoring and Review

The Nursery Manager is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.

Health and safety checks are carried out at appropriate intervals, including daily checks of areas used by children and more detailed scheduled inspections.

Any identified hazard is dealt with promptly. Where immediate action cannot be taken, the area or equipment will be restricted or removed from use until it is safe.

Health and safety arrangements are reviewed at least annually and sooner where legislation, EYFS requirements, guidance or nursery circumstances change.

Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), current version
- Other relevant health and safety legislation and guidance

Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Risk Assessment Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Recording and Reporting of Accidents and Incidents Policy
- Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation Policy
- Food Safety and Safer Eating Policy
- Allergies Policy
- Nappy Changing Policy
- Safer Sleep Policy
- No-Smoking and No-Vaping Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Outings Policy

Policy Review

This policy was adopted by: Impact Montessori Nursery

Date adopted: _____

Date to be reviewed: _____

Signed on behalf of the provider: _____

Name of signatory: _____

Role of signatory: Nursery Manager