

33. Safety Checks

At La Petite Academy we take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises including carrying out safety checks on a regular basis. We promote the safety of children, parents, staff and visitors by regularly reviewing and reducing any risks.

These include visual and written risk assessments and daily safety checks of the premises, indoors and outdoors, and all equipment and resources before the children access any of the areas. The checks are recorded and show any issues and solutions.

Equipment and Resources

We organise the premises and equipment to meet the needs of all the children. We provide a wide range of high-quality equipment and resources to support the delivery of our early year's curriculum. We take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children when using equipment and resources to ensure they are not exposed to unnecessary risks.

To ensure this occurs within the nursery, including in our outdoor areas, we provide:

- Play equipment and resources which are safe and, where applicable, conform to the European Standards for Playground Equipment: EN 1176 and EN 1177, BS EN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995)
- A sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children registered in the nursery
- High quality resources to meet children's individual needs and interests and promote all areas of children's learning and development
- Opportunities to involve the children in decision making about new resources and equipment, where possible
- A wide range of books, equipment and resources which promote positive images of people of all races, cultures, ages, gender and abilities, are non-discriminatory and do not stereotype
- Play equipment and resources which promote continuity and progression and sufficient challenge
- Sufficient storage so resources and equipment can be displayed for children to independently choose and/or stored away safely and then rotated

- Appropriate risk assessments and checks on all resources and equipment before first use to identify any potential risks and again at the beginning and end of every session.
- Cleaning and maintaining of all resources and equipment

We repair or replace any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment whenever required. We carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the resources including the children's opinions and interests. Adults role model and discuss how to use and look after equipment and resources. We encourage children to put resources back where they belong after use. We will often use pictures to support the children to do this.

All staff are trained in health and safety to raise awareness. Staff know how to recognise potential hazards, including near misses in the nursery environment and monitor safety at all times.

Risk assessments

Please refer to the Health and Safety Executive's 'Five Steps to Risk Assessment' <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm> for further support with the risk assessment process. The Five Steps to Risk Assessment publication and risk assessment templates can be downloaded from the Health and Safety Executive's website at www.hse.gov.uk . Citation Plc can also offer further support with risk assessments at www.citation.co.uk .

Risk assessments document the hazards or aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis. These include who could be harmed, existing controls, the seriousness of the risk or possible injury, any further action needed to control the risk, who is responsible for what action, when and how often the action will be undertaken, and how this will be monitored, checked and by whom.

The nursery carries out written risk assessment reviews annually and writes new risk assessments as required, for example when a new piece of equipment is purchased, a new experience is planned, or an incident has occurred. These cover potential risks to children, staff and visitors at the nursery.

All staff are trained in the risk assessment process to ensure understanding and compliance of how they manage risks. All outings away from the nursery are individually risk assessed and adequately staffed with paediatric first aid trained practitioners. For more details, please refer to the Visits and Outings policy.

Electrical equipment

- All electrical cables are kept out of the reach of children wherever possible and shielded by furniture where they need to be at floor level
- We take a risk-based approach, considering the type of equipment and what it is being used for, to make a decision whether to have certain electrical items Portable appliance testing (PAT) tested (as per HSE guidance) takes place annually
- Electrical sockets are all risk assessed, and any appropriate safety measures are in place to ensure the safety of the children. Where possible, socket covers are in use. We do not use 'plug' style socket protectors

Dangerous substances

All dangerous substances including chemicals are kept in locked areas out of children's reach. All substances are kept in their original containers with their original labels attached. Safety data sheets (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)) and risk assessments are kept for all substances and the appropriate personal protection taken and used, e.g. gloves, apron and goggles.

Hot drinks and food

Hot drinks must only be consumed in the staff room, office or kitchen. No bottled or canned drinks (including carbonated drinks), sweets, chocolate or crisps etc are to be kept or consumed in the nursery rooms or outside during working periods. Staff may use plastic cups or non-breakable water bottles in rooms for water/juice. If juice is being consumed then a coloured, lidded bottle must be used.

Staff should refer to the Nutrition and Mealtimes policy regarding their consumption of food in the setting.

Room temperatures

- Staff should be aware of room temperatures in the nursery, ensure that they are suitable at all times. There is a thermometer in each room to ensure this is monitored
- Staff must always be aware of the dangers of babies and young children being too warm or too cold
- Temperatures should not fall below 18°C in the baby rooms and 16°C in all other areas. Staff are responsible for informing managers if this is not occurring

- Where fans are being used to cool rooms, great care must be taken with regard to their positioning for safety, including consideration of wires and proximity to children.

Water supplies

- A fresh water drinking supply is available and accessible to all children, staff and visitors
- All hot water taps accessible to children are thermostatically controlled to ensure that the temperature of the water does not exceed 40°C.

Gas appliances

- All gas appliances are checked annually by a registered Gas Safety Register engineer
- Carbon monoxide detectors are fitted.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>13/05/25</i>	<i>Seren Brown</i>	<i>30/04/27</i>