



Health and Safety Policy

1. Policy

We believe that adequate provision for health and safety is essential to working life. The maintenance of healthy and safe working conditions and the prevention of harm through injury are in the best interests of our employees and their families, and our service users, as well as being vitally important to our efficiency and success.

The Early Years Practitioner team has responsibility for the day-to-day Health and Safety on site, led by the Playgroup Manager. We believe that health and safety is the responsibility of all adults in our service. When someone sees a hazard or something or someone is unsafe they should act immediately by taking action or by seeking out help by alerting designated staff. Children are entitled to a safe environment in which to play and learn. Staff will carry out the care for children and support children in their early learning on health and safety.

In recognition of this we will:

- Provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and volunteers, and will provide up to date information about health and safety issues at work.
- Accept responsibility for the health and safety of service users and other people who may be affected by our activities. The group recognises that we could be liable for any actions which affect safety on its premises.
- Ensure that all employees and volunteers know and understand their responsibility within their roles, to take reasonable care of themselves, and others by reporting hazards to management
- Ensure that all employees have a working knowledge of this policy and are fully aware of their responsibility for safety, as well as the safety rules which are relevant to their own jobs.
- We will display the health and safety law poster or provide each worker with a copy of the approved leaflet or equivalent pocket card. We will display the poster where our workers can easily read it.
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/managing/poster.htm#:~:text=If%20you%20employ%20anyone%2C%20you,workers%20can%20easily%20read%20it.>
- Provide relevant training in health and safety matters to designated staff. All other employees and volunteers will receive the training necessary for the role to ensure that they are able to do their role safely.
- Identify potential hazards and risks, and undertake written risk assessments. The group will introduce, as far as is reasonably practicable, measures to reduce and minimise risk and potential hazards.
- Take account of the health and safety risks to women who are pregnant, women who are breastfeeding and women who have given birth in the last six months (see also rota guidance).
- Recognise the duty to inform new employees, volunteers, service users and visitors to the group of its health and safety procedures to ensure that they comply fully and to minimize the risk of breaches in its Health and Safety Policy and procedures.

- Keep this policy up-to-date, particularly if the group changes in nature, size and location. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed every year.

The setting will also pay heed to current Scottish Government ELC Guidance and implement its expectations: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/resources/children-and-young-people/early-learning-and-childcare-elc/>

2. Responsibilities

2.1

Our policy is to provide and maintain healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and volunteers, and to provide such information and training as needed for this purpose. We also accept our responsibility for the health and safety of service users and other people who may be affected by the group's activities.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the arrangements which the group will make to implement the policy are set out below.

The Parent Committee has overall and final responsibility for health and safety policy in the group and for this policy being carried out at all the group's premises and all activities of the group.

The following are responsible for safety in particular areas: Playgroup Manager – for health and safety in all premises and activities of service delivery

2.2

All employees have a responsibility to cooperate in achieving a healthy and safe workplace and to take reasonable care of themselves and others. They are expected to:

- Make sure that they use proper methods for lifting and handling of children and equipment, as detailed in HSE guidance, for example, keeping the back straight, not lifting equipment that is heavy on their own, and asking someone to help.
- Follow best practice procedures detailed in the group's Infection Control Policy in relation to:
 - Storage, preparation and handling of food
 - Disposal of hazardous substances, including body fluids
 - Keeping the setting and equipment clean and tidy
 - Handwashing
- Safety in routines:
 - Infection Prevention and Control - see Playgroup IPC policy
 - Medication - see Playgroup policy
 - Allergies - see Playgroup Healthy Eating policy
 - Intimate care - see Playgroup policy
 - Sun safety - see Playgroup policy
 - Missing child – see Playgroup policy
 - Report any injury, however slight, to employees, service users, visitors etc.
 - Report hazards.
 - Keep all fire exits clear and follow procedures if a fire incident occurs
 - Store hazardous substances safely (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health - COSHH)

Whenever an employee notices a health or safety problem which they are not able to put right, they must report the matter immediately to the appropriate person, named above.

3. General Arrangements

3.1 Accidents

We have designated a qualified first aider who will deal with any injury requiring treatment and who maintains a clearly marked, accessible workplace compliant first aid kit. The first aid kit will be replenished regularly. The group complies with the requirements of Reporting of Injuries Diseases & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995.

The trained first aider/s is/are: Designated Leads is Playgroup Manager and Lead Practitioner. All EYS Practitioners are trained in first aid

The group must keep first aid facilities, and at least one member of the group must be a qualified first aider in compliance with Care Inspectorate standards of having a first aider always trained in paediatric first aid available.

The First aid box is located in: White cabinet, front of hall

Appointed person responsible for first aid box: Lead Practitioner

Person responsible for reporting incidents to the Incident Contact Centre (ICC): Playgroup Manager

RIDDOR Reporting

RIDDOR stands for the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (1995). RIDDOR places a legal duty on employers, the self-employed and those in control of premises to report some work-related accidents, diseases, and dangerous occurrences to the relevant enforcing authority for their work activity. When appropriate reports will be made to the Incident Contact Centre (ICC). This allows reports to be made to one single point; it is user friendly, fast, and effective. The ICC will forward your report to the correct enforcing authority, there is no need to make any other reports to the Health and Safety Executive or the local authority. For detailed information please see our Accident and Incident Record Book.

Further information can also be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf>

RIDDOR: Any work-related accident resulting in staff or volunteers being off work for seven days or more, or in a death; someone being taken to hospital; a fracture (except finger, thumb, or toe) must be reported within 15 days from the day of the accident. All incidents can be reported online either through www.riddor.gov.uk or www.hse.gov.uk websites. The HSE's website includes interactive report forms for RIDDOR reports, available at www.hse.gov.uk/forms/index.htm

A telephone service is available for reporting fatal and major injuries only - call the Incident Contact Centre (ICC) on 0845 300 9923. There is no need to make other reports to the local Health & Safety Executive or local authority. The ICC will forward the report to the correct enforcing authority. Employers and others with responsibilities under RIDDOR must keep a record of all over-three-day injuries in their accident book. A full list of reportable major injuries is listed in our Accident & Incident Record Booklet.

All accidents to any child or adult will be recorded in duplicate, and for a child one copy will be given to the child's parent/carer.

The current Accident and Incident Record Book is in (location): Playgroup store cupboard, locked filing cabinet

All accident records must be kept for a minimum of three years from date of entry however it is recommended permanently by (Health & Safety at Work Act 1974) in the group's archives.

3.2 Dealing with Body Fluids

Proper procedures for dealing with body fluids will be followed, as detailed in the group's Infection Control Policy. Guidelines are in Health Protection Scotland's Guidelines are in [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#)

4. Fire Safety

4.1

We will carry out and record fire drills at least once per term. The number of drills will be sufficient to allow all staff, as well as the children registered with the group, to participate and become familiar with the drill. Adults will be trained in fire drill procedures and will know the location of the evacuation assembly point. Fire exits will be always kept clear. Fire extinguishers, smoke and fire alarms will be checked at least annually. Any problems will be reported immediately to the: Church Manager

The procedure concerning fire and emergency evacuation will be posted on the group's notice board. The following procedure will be followed.

INSERT LINK TO DOC (emergency evacuation policy to be drafted)

The local fire service will explain the setting's obligations. There is essential guidance on the fire certificate in the: hall foyer.

4.2

Escape Routes

At every session a check must be carried out to ensure that escape routes are clear and usable.

Location: Hall front door and outside garden to gate

Checked by: EYS Practitioners

Frequency: Daily

4.3

Fire Extinguishers

Location: Church hall (2) and Kitchen (2)

Checked by: Church Manager

An annual check must be carried out professionally. The setting must ensure this is done either directly or indirectly through their landlord/hall committee.

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Based on Early Years Scotland policy guidance*

Frequency: Annual (April - Fire Point Services)

4.4

Fire Alarms

Location of 'break glass' alarms:

Hall front door (in foyer) and hall (rear side door)

Tested by: Church Manager

Frequency: Weekly (Wednesdays)

4.5

Location of Other Fire Emergency Equipment

Noticeboard, front Church hall

Fire blanket

Kitchen

Kitchen in Church centre

4.6

Evacuation Assembly Point

Off-site - Courtyard, Charlie Miller Salon, 2 Colinton Road

Alternative premises to be used in case of complete evacuation:

Location: Colinton Road, Charlie Miller salon (round the corner from Church)

Telephone: 0131 447 0099

Safe route to the location: Pavement from Church path to small side gate (not via large gate through bus stop), pass McLarens, pass Tesco to Courtyard in front of Charlie Miller Salon

Key holder for premises: N/A

Emergency evacuation procedure to be drafted

Assembly point: Links , confirm where (200m from site)

Safe route: via traffic lights, Holy Corner, follow pavement up to Links

5. New Service Users and Visitors

We could be liable for any actions by service users or visitors, which affect safety on our premises. New service users and visitors may not know what hazards there are and what precautions they should take. It will, therefore, be the responsibility of management to make them aware of the Health and Safety Policy and that they accept their responsibility to abide by the group's procedures.

6. Pregnant Women

6.1

We believe that the health and safety of the mother and baby is paramount and will endeavour to minimise risk for pregnant women. Care will be taken to ensure pregnant women are not asked to lift, bend, move or handle heavy equipment. Parental involvement with the group activities will be flexible enough to consider an individual's circumstances. Further information is available via the Health and Safety Executive -

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/mothers/>

6.2

If a staff member is pregnant, the group will undertake a written risk assessment of their job and will, if necessary:

- Make temporary adjustments to their working conditions and/or hours of work or, if this is not practicable, or would not avoid the risk, then
- offer suitable alternative work (at the same rate of pay), if available or, if this is not feasible,
- suspend the employee from work on paid leave for as long as necessary to protect their health and safety, and/or that of their child.

The risk assessment will be monitored and reviewed regularly, and adjustments made accordingly to ensure the health and safety of the mother and baby is held paramount.

7 Hazards

7.1 Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the building or grounds.

7.2 Violence and Abusive Behaviour

We will not tolerate any form of violence or abusive behaviour committed by or against any employee, volunteer, service user or other people who are affected by our activities.

Violence or abusive behaviour includes any attempted, threatened, or actual conduct that endangers the health or safety of employees, service users and other people affected by the activities of the group; or any threatening statement, harassment or behaviour which causes someone to believe that their health and safety is at risk. All reports of violence or abusive behaviour will be taken seriously.

Violent and abusive behaviour by paid or unpaid staff (i.e. volunteers) constitutes misconduct and will be dealt with under the group's disciplinary procedures up to and including dismissal. It could also lead to a referral to the SSSC, if appropriate, and/or to the police. We do not accept violent or abusive behaviour or threats of violent or abusive behaviour towards our staff, volunteers or children by parents/carers or visitors to the group. Such incidents will be investigated and dealt with by the management under our grievance and/or complaints procedure and may result if upheld in the loss of the child's place in the group and/or referral to the police.

See also Playgroup's Anti-bullying Behaviour policy.

7.3 Housekeeping and Premises

The setting will maintain a healthy and safe environment in all aspects of routine practice.

- Cleanliness - staff will check the toilets, playroom and resources for cleanliness at the beginning of each session. If necessary, items will be cleaned or removed until they can be cleaned.
- Waste disposal - normal waste will be disposed of in waste bins provided. Food waste will be disposed of in the designated composting bin. Nappies and other waste with body fluids will be disposed of in accordance with infection control policy guidelines. All nappy bins will be emptied regularly.
- Children's security - a register will be kept showing which children and adults are present at a session. Children exiting the playroom will be monitored by a staff member. Children and parents will be escorted in and out of the service by a member of staff.
- Safe stacking and storage of equipment - lifting and handling of equipment will be carried out in accordance with training and health and safety guidelines. Resources will be stored in a safe manner and where stacking is necessary, they will not be stacked above shoulder height.
- Checking play equipment - each play resource will be inspected for cleanliness and damage, before being made available to the children. Resources will be checked for cleaning before being put away.
- Checking outdoor play spaces - these should be checked for example for glass, needles etc. prior to use. (See health and safety checklist.)
- Building and site checks - see terms of Church rental agreement

Adverse weather

In cases of severe weather, we will monitor weather forecasting and communicate with employees on when this affects the opening of the service. Employees must stay in touch with their employer in cases where travel would be unsafe and they are not able to attend work. See Absence Policy for employees.

In high winds, the outside garden will be closed when there are high winds, with regular monitoring of weather. In the event of red weather alerts, the Church site will be closed in the event of red alert weather warnings. Playgroup will therefore be closed in this event.

7.4 Checking Electrical Equipment

Procedure for inspecting plugs and cables for loose connections and faults will be complete through the health and safety checklist. Suggested annual PAT testing (Portable Appliance Testing) should take place on all electrical equipment/installations.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg107.pdf>

7.5 Dangerous Substances

All substances will only be used for specific purposes by adults or under adult supervision. All potentially dangerous substances will be stored securely and out of the reach of children. Although there should not be dangerous substances stored on the premises, there are substances which, if misused, can be dangerous, such as bleach, washing-up liquid, disinfectant, glues, paint, sand, Tippex and Tippex Fluid, solvents, aerosols etc.

7.6 Lifting and Handling

Staff and volunteers will be appropriately trained in terms of lifting and handling both children and pieces of equipment. Pieces of equipment which are too heavy or awkward for one person to lift or manoeuvre safely, and require an appropriate method of handling to be devised, will be communicated to all in the group who are employed or assist in these tasks (see setting Risk Assessment). Lifting and handling advice is available from the Health & Safety Executive Infoline: 0845 345 0055 Website: [Manual handling at work - Musculoskeletal disorders - HSE](#)

Local Environmental Health Office: CHECK CERTIFICATE

Tel: 0131 608 1100

Website: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/contact>

Fire Safety Officer/Local Authority Fire Department:

Tel: Scottish Fire and Rescue, Tollcross Fire Station 0131 229 8274

Website: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk>

Health & Safety Executive Scotland Telephone:

Tel 0845 345 0055

Website www.hse.gov.uk/scotland

Early Years Scotland Centre:

Tel 0141 221 4148

Website www.earlyyearsscotland.org.uk

Health & Safety Risk Assessment Guidance

8. Health & Safety Risk Assessment

8.1 Why?

The [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#) and the [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#) impose an obligation upon employers to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable:

- the health, safety and welfare of all their employees.
- the health, safety and welfare of persons, not in their employment, who might be affected by the undertaking and activities of the employer.

The employer is also required to assess the risks to the health, safety and welfare of staff and any others affected by the activities (see the Playgroup's risk assessment).

Where more than five staff, paid or unpaid, are employed the employer has a duty to:

- record the significant findings of the assessment.
- Identify any group of employees, or other persons who are regarded as being especially at risk.

8.2 What is it?

A risk assessment is a process that provides a systematic examination of the work activity and requires the employer to:

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- Identify the hazards present. A hazard can be defined as something with the potential to cause harm or injury.
- Identify the people who might be at risk. A risk can be defined as the likelihood of harm or injury from a hazard.
- Identify factors/causes which contribute to risks - e.g., faulty/unguarded equipment, poor hygiene routines etc.
- Evaluate the consequences of risk - i.e., whether harm or injury will be very likely or unlikely to happen and whether it is likely to cause minor or more serious to life threatening injury.
- Involve service users in setting's risk assessments
- Determine and implement changes which are needed to eliminate or control the risk whenever a particular activity is being carried out.

8.3 Risk Assessment

A written risk assessment helps:

- the management of health and safety.
- to reduce the possibility, extent and cost of injuries, illness, property and equipment damage.
- regarding compliance with the law.
- to produce a quality working environment.

We are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the children attending the group. We are also responsible for ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all staff, paid or unpaid and other people who are involved, in any way, in the activities and undertakings of the group. We have a duty to eradicate or control any risks to children, staff, parents, and others who are associated with the work of the group.

We will:

- conduct written risk assessments.
- record significant findings of the assessments.
- monitor the management of risks by ensuring that discussions about risks and hazards are on the agenda at staff meetings.
- accurately record and report accidents or incidents as they occur.
- Carry out a review every six months to ensure risks are being managed or eliminated appropriately and to identify new or emerging risks.



The effective implementation of our health and safety policy requires the commitment and involvement of staff, parents, children, and other adults. We maintain a safe, healthy and secure environment. The health and safety officer(s) is/are responsible for undertaking the task of review, however, parents, committee members and staff should be consulted and asked for their input. In some of the areas where risks are identified, guidance and advice

should be sought from the professional agencies - e.g., environmental health or the fire services - to ensure appropriate measures are taken to eliminate or control risks.

8.4 Guidance and literature can be obtained from:

- The Health and Safety Executive Scotland (HSE) which has a number of local offices across Scotland. Visit www.hse.gov.uk/scotland
- The HSE Infoline is a one stop shop providing you with rapid access to health and safety information and to expert advice and guidance.
- [Scottish Social Services Council \(SSSC\) Codes of Practice](#) give some guidance on eliminating and minimising risk.

We will carry out suitable and sufficient risk assessments which identify the significant risks arising out of the work of the group. The assessments will be used to provide a set of control measures which will be followed whenever a particular activity or piece of equipment is used during the group's work. The control measures aim to eliminate, or manage and minimise, potential harm or injury to any person, child, or adult, engaged in the activity.

8.5 Risk Assessment Process/ Risk Benefit Process

Our settings Risk Assessments and Risk/Benefit Processes will be carried out using advice from HSE, Play Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council

Risk Assessment templates and examples from HSE can be accessed [here](#)

Risk Benefit support can be accessed [here](#)

8.6 Monitoring

As with any aspect of group activities, it is important to keep a watch on health and safety matters to gauge how successfully the group is operating. Monitoring health and safety performance requires the group to regularly examine and check that:

- Safety standards and procedures are being implemented.
- The controls introduced to eliminate or minimise risk are working.
- Information and insight gained through monitoring are used to improve practice and procedures.
- accidents and incidents are recorded and brought to the attention of appropriate personnel.

If injury, illness, or damage to property occurs, or nearly occurs, we need to investigate what and why something happened, so that remedial action can be taken to control the risk. The outcomes of monitoring health and safety performance must feature regularly on the group's management agenda.

Remedial actions, because of monitoring, may require:

- Organisational and policy changes.
- Group expenditure on resources and equipment.
- Updating health and safety information to parents.
- Health and safety training.

We will keep a record of all accidents and incidents which occur during the group's activities. We will do this by using an Accident and Incident Record book. We will

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investigate the accident and incident thoroughly to ensure we get to all the underlying causes of the accident/incident. Thorough investigations will be used to identify the hazards involved and will suggest measures to take to avert such accidents/incidents happening again.

8.7 Reviewing

Staff and committee members (parents, carers) should be involved in the review of this policy, either when there are significant changes to update, and as a minimum every year. If everyone is involved they will be able to take responsibility for their and others safety.

Monitoring provides information which lets the group review and evaluate its performance in health and safety matters. The information can:

- Show to what extent health and safety policy and standards are being complied with.
- Identify areas which need attention.
- Demonstrate what has been achieved.

Examining the accident and incident record provides information about the types of injury and incidents which occur from which an analysis can be made of:

- The immediate and underlying causes of accidents and incidents.
- Trends in occurrence of accidents and incidents.
- Common features.

We will assess the information in order to identify where improvements need to be made and the action necessary to make the improvements.

8.9 Useful Reading

- The Health & Safety Executive supplies the following free useful booklets. which can be ordered from their website <https://books.hse.gov.uk/>.
- A Guide to Risk Assessment Requirements [Managing risks and risk assessment at work – Overview -HSE](#)
- Five Steps to Risk Assessment
- COSHH: A Brief Guide to the Regulations: What you need to know about the Control of Substances Hazardous to your Health Regulations 2002
Visit: https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/healthsafetyenvironment/coshh_2005_brief_guide_indg136.pdf
- Managing Health and Safety - 5 steps to success
- Successful Health and Safety Management
- Reporting accidents and incidents at work A brief guide to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) Visit: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.htm>
- Visit: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>
- The Food Hygiene Handbook for Scotland is available from The Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland. Telephone 0131 229 2968 Visit: <https://rehis.com/>
- Health and Social Care Standards – My Support, My Life <https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-standards-support-life/documents/>
- ROSPA legal guidance on play areas: <https://www.rospace.com/policy/play-safety/advice/legal-aspects>

This policy was adopted at a meeting of:

Holy Corner Community Playgroup

on 20th March 2025

Signed: Jenny Elder

Designation: Chair, Parent Committee