



Adventure Pre-School – Risk Policy

“Children are highly motivated to play in risky ways but they are also very good at knowing their own capacities and avoiding risks they are not ready to take, either physically or emotionally.” Peter Gray – Free to Learn

When children come to Adventure they are open to many experiences that they may have never faced before. They are learning about themselves, about their bodies, their feelings and the world around them.

Our role at Adventure is to guide them on this part of their journey. We must keep them safe as they travel but we must also encourage them to explore along the path, to venture into places they have never been even if this means they get a bump or a scratch along the way. Without any risk children will not learn or develop. Taking a risk can be doing something they have never done before.

We follow the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) national guidance on risk assessment and safety. This means we act to ensure experiences are ***‘as safe as necessary rather than as safe as possible’***. In this way we do not limit children’s experiences but expose them to measured risks through which they can learn more effectively than be naïve to risk by being wrapped in cotton wool.

The most common hazards and risks at Adventure that need to be controlled are:

- Untidy surfaces causing slips, trips and falls
- Ingestion of materials/potential choking
- Cross-infection
- Accidents due to unsafe movement around the setting
- Contact with others in play
- Splinters or injuries caused by contact with wood

Our actions are structured into three main approaches to risk awareness and management:

- Scheduled reviews
- Daily checks
- Dynamic risk management

Scheduled reviews must periodically identify the potential hazards, who they might affect and how we can put control measures in place to reduce to risk to a reasonable level. These must be completed every half term and follow the key questions in our insurance documentation from the Pre-School Learning Alliance. Significant incidents or near-misses should also trigger an update of scheduled reviews.



Daily checks must ensure that all control measures identified in the scheduled reviews are in place. They ensure that the setting is ready to open and is completed by the Team Leader.

Dynamic risk assessment should quickly identify any risks that increase in severity or likelihood 'in the moment' so that new or renewed control measures are put in place. All employees are responsible for dynamic risk assessment.