

This Policy defines the precautions to be taken, and the arrangements in place, to ensure that substances used in the nursery setting that are potentially hazardous to health are controlled within limits established by the C.O.S.H.H. (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations.

These substances will include the following that are in every-day use:

- Detergents, disinfectants, washing powders, washing-up liquids, other cleansing agents.
- Antiseptics.
- Oven cleaners, scouring powders, drain cleaners, other kitchen materials.
- Pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides, other toxic pest control materials.
- Paints and Preservatives.

A Register is kept of all hazardous substances used in the Nursery. For each substance this register will identify the following:

- Description of the substance.
- Location in the nursery setting where the substance is normally used.
- Location in the nursery setting where the substance is normally stored.
- Purpose of the substance.

For each substance on the register there will be a copy of the manufacturer's safety data information where possible and a stock photo to help identify the product quickly.

For each substance on the register an assessment is made of the likely hazards presented by the substance to the human body. The Assessment will focus upon the following elements:

- Persons using the substance, i.e. those at risk
- Route of exposure to the body by the substance
- Storage requirements
- Method of use
- Personal Protective Equipment required when using the substance
- Maximum exposure limits and exposure risks

Use and control of chemical substances:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as rubber gloves, latex free/vinyl gloves, aprons etc., is available to all staff as needed and stocks are regularly replenished.
- Hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children.
- Chemicals used in the setting should be kept to the minimum to ensure health and hygiene is maintained.
- Environmental factors are considered when purchasing, using and disposing of chemicals.
- All members of staff are vigilant and use chemicals safely.
- Anti-bacterial cleaning agents are restricted to toilets, nappy changing areas and food preparation areas and are not used when children are nearby.
- Members of staff wear rubber gloves when using cleaning chemicals.

Where a significant risk is identified details are recorded and actions listed to minimise risk.