

## **Health and safety**

### **6.2 Risk Assessment**

Risk assessment involves awareness of the environment and activities that could cause harm and deciding what needs to be done to prevent that harm, making sure identified actions are adhered to and updated as required.

The law does not require that all risks be eliminated - but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children and young people to manage appropriate risks through physically challenging play. Children and young people need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with risk.

Risk assessments are carried out at Discovery Vine settings to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents, carers and visitors. Legislation requires all individuals in the workplace to be responsible for the health and safety of premises, equipment and working practices. We have a 'corporate responsibility' towards a 'duty of care' for those who work in and receive a service from our provision. Individuals also have responsibility for ensuring their own and others safety.

- A risk assessment is completed for each area of work, and the areas of the building that are identified in these procedures.
- An access audit is completed to ensure inclusion and the health and safety of all visitors, staff, and children for all buildings occupied exclusively by Discovery Vine. Copies of audits carried out on school sites should be requested if needed and adapted if / where necessary. The relevant procedure is modified if required to match the assessment.

The law does not require that all risk be eliminated, but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children to be able to take appropriate risks through physically challenging play. Children need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with a risk.

#### **Daily safety sweeps and checks indoors and outdoors**

- Safety sweeps are conducted when setting up for the day prior to children arriving or closing in the evening. Some areas of provision will need safety checks throughout the day, for example sleep areas and toilets. Sometimes a safety sweep will identify a risk that requires a formal risk assessment on a form. For example, if a window latch is

becoming stiff and a practitioner has to stand on a chair in order to reach it to ensure it has closed properly.

### **Health and safety risk assessments**

Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff, parents and carers should be involved in reviewing risk assessments and procedures, as they are the ones with first-hand knowledge as to whether the control measures are effective and they can give an informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

The setting manager undertakes training and ensures staff have adequate training in health and safety matters and takes overall responsibility for health and safety including risk assessments. The setting manager also ensures that checks/work to premises are carried out and records are kept.

- Electricity safety by a qualified electrician.
- Fire precautions to check that all fire-fighting equipment and alarms are in working order.
- Hot air heating systems/air conditioning systems cleaned and checked.
- Deep clean is carried out in kitchen / food preparation areas.

The setting manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety, in each of the following areas of the premises:

- Entrance and exits.
- Outdoor areas.
- Off-site venues used regularly
- Passageways, stairways and connecting areas.
- Main kitchen / food preparation areas.
- Rooms used by others or for other purposes.

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for off-site activities, such as children's outings including:

- forest school
- home visits
- other duties off-site such as attending meetings etc

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for work practice including:

- The intimate care of young children and older children
- arrivals and departures
- children with allergies and special dietary needs or preferences
- serving food in group rooms
- cooking activities with children
- supervising outdoor play and indoor/outdoor climbing equipment
- settling young children to sleep
- assessment, use and storage of equipment for disabled children
- visitors to the setting who are bringing equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences, for example 'fire engines'
- following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers
- following any accident or incident involving staff or children

The setting manager liaises with Crime Prevention Officers as appropriate to ensure security arrangements for premises and personnel are appropriate.

### **Dynamic risk assessments**

These ongoing risk assessments are carried out by staff to identify and respond to risks as they arise during the day. For example, an educator may notice a wet floor, so will take prompt action to reduce the risk.

**This policy was reviewed and updated on: 27/08/26 and adopted by:** Discovery Vine Ltd

**Date to be reviewed:** August 2027 (or earlier if necessary)

**Signed on behalf of Discovery Vine Ltd:** Lynda Garbutt

**Name of signatory:** Lynda Garbutt

**Role of signatory:** Managing Director