

Health and Safety Policy

The Health and Safety of all the children in my care is very important to me and I have therefore documented the following procedures that I have in place to support this.

- I do a quick risk assessment of my home every morning before the children arrive to ensure that it is a safe environment for minded children.
- All toys will be checked and cleaned regularly to ensure they are safe for your child to use. Any broken or hazardous toys will be removed immediately. Children will only be offered toys and resources that are suitable for their age/stage of development.
- All plug sockets not in use have socket covers.
- All equipment (highchairs, booster chairs, potty, toilet training seat, changing mat) will be cleaned after every use and checked regularly for defaults.
- All necessary equipment is fitted with the correct safety harnesses to prevent accidents, for example highchair and pushchairs.
- Car seats are checked regularly to ensure they are correctly fitted and that they are age/stage appropriate for your child. I will never use a second hand car seat, as I do not know its history.
- I use safety equipment appropriate for the children in my care, ie stair gates, cupboard locks etc. These are checked regularly.
- I keep a fire blanket in my kitchen in the event of emergencies.
- I will keep my front door locked with a key and latch on a hook up high to prevent the children opening the door to either strangers or to allow themselves outside unsupervised.
- I have procedures in place in the event of a fire (see my fire evacuation policy).
- I ensure that the children do not have access to any waste, the bins are emptied daily and any used nappies are double wrapped and placed in the outdoor rubbish bin.
- I do not permit smoking in my home.
- I follow strict hygiene guidelines to prevent contamination.
- I have strict safeguarding children guidelines in place.
- Children must stay with me when we are away from the home. Younger child will be strapped in a pushchair, older children will either be on a harness or wrist strap, or holding onto my hand/pushchair.
- I have emergency contact details with me at all times should I need to contact the parents.
- I teach the children about safety issues like crossing the road and stranger danger and where appropriate encourage these at all times.
- I teach the children about the importance making healthy food choices and physical exercise and encourage these at all times.
- If your child has a regular sleep routine I will, where possible, adhere to it at all time and your child will be regularly monitored and I will use a baby monitor as well.
- I discourage the children from keeping 'secrets' and where necessary (making of Christmas presents, birthday cards etc) will encourage them that these are 'surprises'
- I will only ever restrain a child if they are putting themselves or others in danger.

