

# Health & Safety Policy

The Health and Safety of your child is very important to me, I therefore have the following procedures in place to support this.

- I do a quick risk assessment of my home every morning before children arrive to ensure that it is safe and clean environment.
- I regularly check electrical equipment, ensure sockets are not overloaded and where possible secure wires and cables so they are out of reach of young children.
- All equipment is checked and cleaned regularly.
- All equipment is fitted with the correct safety harnesses to prevent accidents, for example highchairs and pushchairs and that these are used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Children will only be offered toys and resources that are suitable for their age/stage of development. 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.
- I use safety equipment appropriate for the children in my care, i.e., cupboard locks, stair gates, etc. These are checked regularly, and replaced when required.
- Sleeping children will be monitored. I also use a baby monitor.
- I have procedures in place in the event of a fire or other emergency (see separate Emergency Evacuation Procedure)
- I carry out monthly fire safety checks to ensure my fire alarm system is in full working order and practise fire drills with the children so that they learn of the importance of being able to escape from the house quickly and safely in an emergency.
- I follow strict hygiene guidelines to prevent contamination (see separate Hygiene Policy)
- I keep my kitchen very clean, following hygiene guidelines on the storing of food, keeping the fridge at the correct temperature, etc. I have received training on food preparation and hygiene.
- Bins are emptied daily and any soiled nappies are wrapped and placed immediately in the outdoor waste bin.
- I do not permit smoking in my home (see separate No Smoking Policy)
- I have strict Child protection guidelines in place (see separate Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy)
- I follow current car seat safety guidance ensuring all car seats are correctly fitted and are age and stage appropriate for the children using them. I check all children are securely strapped into their seats and are comfortable before departure. When a new car seat is purchased, I will get it fitted properly using the Manufacturer's guidelines.
- My car is regularly serviced and has a valid MOT certificate. I have child locks on the back doors and always keep these in use when in motion. My car insurance covers business use.
- When out walking younger children will be strapped in a pushchair, older children will either be holding onto an adult's hands/pushchair.
- When on outings for example visits to the park, high visibility waistcoats will be put on the children, and they will not be allowed to 'wander off' or will never be left unattended. Their play will be supervised at all times.
- When attending playgroups or other indoor group activities, your child will remain in my/my assistant's care at all times. I will not leave a minded child in a room alone with another person or allow another person to take my minded children to the toilet or change their nappies, unless I know they have been DBS checked, for example my husband/assistant or another Ofsted registered childminder.
- I keep emergency contact details with me at all times should I need to contact parents.
- I will work with you to teach the children about safety issues like crossing the road and talking to strangers.
- I encourage and teach the children about making healthy food choices and taking physical exercise.
- I will restrain a child if they are putting themselves or others in danger, for example running into a road.

If you are concerned about the health and safety of your child, please feel free to discuss them with me.