

Policy statement

Risk and challenge plays a vital role in children's cognitive and physical development. It enables children to think their different skills and capabilities and to develop strategies to overcome risk when in new and common situations.

It is suggested that children learn more when they are actively thinking about what they are doing rather than being given set instruction when approaching a problem or something they are unaware of how to overcome. If children do not have opportunities to experience challenges, their understanding of safety will not move forwards. The EYFS focuses on the importance of children taking "reasonable risk". To allow this to happen we need to recognise the risk, examine hazards, then balance the likelihood of an accident happening and take appropriate action if necessary.

Principle of sensible risk management

- Providing overall benefit to the children by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus on reducing real risks.
- Ensuring that those who create risk responsibly manage it and clearly understand that failure to do so will lead to action by management.
- Enabling individuals to understand that as well as the right to protection, they also have the right to exercise responsibility. Sensible risk management is NOT creating a total risk-free environment or reducing protection from real risk that will cause them real harm.

As a setting we will ensure

- Children are given a wide range of opportunities to approach risk and challenge situations.
- All staff will be vigilant and if they deem something "dangerous" will stop the activity. Equipment used for risk and challenge play (eg. climbing frame, tree) will be supervised when the children are playing on them.
- Children will be supported appropriately by staff during their risk and challenge experiences.
- Risk assessment will be carried out to ensure no child is in danger while in the setting.

Date to be reviewed:

Signed and dated
on behalf of the management