

**RISK AND CHALLENGE POLICY**

Challenges and risks play a vital role in a child’s cognitive and physical development.

Taking risks and facing challenges enables children to think about their different skills and

capabilities and in turn to develop strategies to overcome risk when in new situations. It also

helps to develop the child’s self-esteem, confidence and pride by thinking through and

overcoming the challenge.

As role models, we frequently show children new skills and help them work their way

through new challenges and problems. However, at times children need to work these out

for themselves. It is suggested that children will learn more when they are actively thinking

about what they are doing, rather than being given instructions to follow. Children need to

have opportunities to experience challenges or their understanding of safety will not move

forward.

The Early Years Foundation Stage focuses on the importance of children taking reasonable

risks. To allow this to happen, Nursery Practitioners will recognise a risk, examine hazards,

then balance the likelihood of an accident happening and take the appropriate action if

necessary.

Principles of sensible risk management:

• providing overall benefit to the children by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus

of reducing real risks

• ensuring that those who create risk, manage it responsibly and clearly understand

that the failure to do so will lead to robust 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 totally risk free environment or reducing protection from real risks that will cause

them real harm. (Health and Safety Executive - [www.HSE.gov.uk](http://www.HSE.gov.uk))

As a setting we will ensure that:

• 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 modify or halt the

activity. Any equipment used for risk and challenge will be supervised when the

children are playing on or with the equipment.

• children will be supported appropriately by staff members during their ‘risk and

challenge’ experiences.

• risk assessments will be carried out on equipment to ensure no child is in danger in

the setting.

**Policy reviewed – March 2021**

**Policy to be next reviewed – March 2022 Acting Day Nursery Manager**