



## **Risk assessment policy**

We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Risk assessment means:

*Taking note of aspects of your workplace and activities that could cause harm, either to yourself or to others, and deciding what needs to be done to prevent that harm, making sure this is adhered to.*

The law does not require that all risk is 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.

Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff and parents (where relevant) should be involved in reviewing risk assessments and procedures – 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.

This policy is based on the five steps below:


- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents and visitors.
- Assessment as to whether the level of a risk is high, medium, low. This takes into account both the likelihood of it happening, as well as the possible impact if it did.
- Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will you need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?

- Monitoring and review: How do you know if what you have said is working, or is thorough enough? If it is not working, it will need to be amended, or maybe there is a better solution.

This policy was adopted by Skylarks Community *(name of provider)*  
Preschool

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 *(date)*

Date to be reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider 

Name of signatory Kathleen Thomson

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) Manager/Trustee

Date Reviewed	Changes	Signature
07 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	None	