



## Environment Policy

At Seahorses Flying Start we are committed to providing a welcoming and caring environment that provides for the children's safety and wellbeing and supports them in their development and learning.

We believe that the organisation and layout of the environment should enable children to be active, and involved in social and individual play activities and experiences.

At Seahorses It is the responsibility of the childcare manager and Seahorses team to ensure

- A welcoming and friendly environment for children and parents.
- To provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for the children's care, health and wellbeing, as well as their development and learning.
- To provide both indoor and outdoor play activities and experiences
- To adhere to the City and County of Swansea policies in respect to building and planning procedures.
- Safeguarding procedures are in place.

### Space within the setting

- We provide appropriate space for children, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, to move freely and safely around the setting.
- We organise the space to allow a wide range of play experiences, including whole-group activities.
- We have our own kitchen where childcare workers can prepare snack for the children in our care.

### Toilet facilities

- We provide appropriate and sufficient toilets and washing facilities for the number of children in the setting, as well as separate toilet facilities for adults. We ensure that facilities are clean and hygienic at all times.
- We provide appropriate space and facilities to encourage children to be independent.

### Kitchen facilities

- We provide a healthy snack for children at Seahorses.
- We ensure that kitchen facilities comply with environmental health and food safety regulations.
- We have achieved a food hygiene rating of 5 since opening our facility.



- We identify specific procedures for the safety of the children relating to the kitchen facilities. Children are not allowed within the kitchen facilities due to CIW regulations. Risk assessments identify this and staff are aware of these procedures.

### Premises

- We provide defined rest areas appropriate for the children's needs, as well as separate rest/break facilities for the staff.
- We ensure that all areas of the building are clean, and well maintained.
- We ensure that there is a working telephone on the premises to contact outside assistance, as well as to receive incoming calls.
- We have efficient systems for contacting parents, support services and other agencies.
- We ensure that all the children have easy access to drinking water.
- Children are always accompanied when going to the toilet.
- We provide an environment that reflects the children's development and learning and has relevance for local cultures and communities.
- We ensure that the premises are well lit and have some natural light.
- We ensure that the premises are kept at a comfortable temperature throughout the year.
- We ensure that the childcare room is for the sole use of the setting when the children are there.
- We provide safe storage facilities for all types of equipment: care and hygiene facilities, and play and learning equipment.
- We provide an area of privacy where parents, staff and other agencies can speak confidentially.
- There are daily opening and closing checklists in place to ensure the childcare room is safe before the children arrive.

### Indoor provision

- We create defined areas for different play activities.
- We use the available space creatively and flexibly to provide opportunities for the children's imaginative play, movement and large-scale play activities.
- We provide opportunities for both floor play and table activities.
- We create opportunities for children to access equipment and materials independently, and choose for themselves, by using low-level open-storage shelves and boxes.



- We encourage the children to care for their environment by embedding tidy up time within the children's daily routine.

### Outdoor provision

- We have daily opportunities for children to play outside, providing open space where they can run, as well as using play equipment.
- We ensure that there are areas of shade and shelter.
- We have suitable flooring, (wet pour), to protect the children whilst they play outside in our play area.
- We use the outdoor environment to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for investigation and exploration.
- When children return from the outdoors, we will ensure that all children wash their hands, especially before snack time. This is already embedded within the children's daily routine.

### Displays

- We create a rich and stimulating environment by using visual and interactive displays.
- We provide display areas for children's own work, including pictures, drawings, writing and models.
- We ensure that displays are informative, and relevant to all families within the local community.
- We promote a wide range of cultural celebrations and festivals through displays and activities.
- All displays have the welsh translation included.

Managers Signature: *Julie Ace*

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