



## Thamesview Preschool Health and safety policy

### Early Years safeguarding and welfare requirements'

3.53 – Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment

3.56 – Premises

3.55- Smoking

3.63 – Risk assessment

3.64 – Outings

3.42- Medicines

3.48 – Accident or injury

### Key themes:

**A Unique Child**

**Positive Relationships**

**Enabling Environments**

### Statement of intent

Thamesview Preschool is committed to providing a safe and secure environment that meets the requirements' of Health and Safety and Work Act 1974 and the Management of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1999. Thamesview is committed to implementing the health and safety procedures in order to maintain high standards and continually keep up to date in order to make improvements, where necessary. Thamesview recognise that risk assessments procedures need to be in place and monitored in order to minimise injury and ill health to children, staff and all who enter the setting.

**Health and safety officer(s) - Samantha Ireland Lucy Foskett & Lisa Jagg**

### **Oral Hygiene**

The state of children's oral health in England RCS Faculty of Dental Surgery Ninety percent of tooth decay is preventable through regular brushing with fluoride toothpaste, reducing sugar consumption and routine dental visits, yet 42% of children did not see a dentist in 2015-2016. What makes this number even more alarming is that NHS dental treatment is free for under-18s. It has been highlighted by Public Health England that 28% of 5-6 year olds have either decayed, filled or extracted teeth. It is now apparent that dental disease is closely linked with social deprivation. The benefit is that intervention in the early years is vital for improved outcomes in the short and long term and will positively impact across the life course of the child

We at Thameview Preschool actively promote daily tooth brushing in the setting as follows

Tooth brushing will take place at a registration time as we always talk about the importance of this and it is one of our 'Happy Choices' at preschool.

- Staff washes their hands before and after supervising tooth brushing to prevent cross infection.
- The child (under supervision) is responsible for collecting their toothbrush /toothpaste from the preschool teacher.
- A small pea sized amount of fluoride toothpaste 1350-1500ppm is dispensed onto the child's toothbrush
- Children may be seated or standing while tooth brushing takes place.
- Staff will monitor and supervise the child's tooth brushing; children are discouraged from swallowing any of the toothpaste.
- Once the child has finished brushing for the recommended 2 minutes, the child is then encouraged to spit the excess toothpaste into a disposable tissue into the sink, disposable paper towel or disposable cup. Children are discouraged from actively rinsing their mouth after tooth brushing (rinsing the mouth after tooth brushing significantly decreases the benefits of fluoride).
- The child is provided with a paper towel to wipe mouth afterwards. Tissues / paper towels are disposed of immediately after use.
- Each child should be equipped with individual tooth pastes to minimise cross infection.
- After tooth brushing, the toothbrush is then rinsed under running water, dried with a paper towel and the toothbrush and toothpaste are stored separately with child's name written on making them individually identifiable.

### **Personal Hygiene**

All members of staff and children are encouraged to maintain an acceptable level of personal hygiene, and procedures are in place to ensure that standards are met. All children are asked to wash their hands before meal times and to clean hands and face after meal times. Children are asked to wash hands after using the toilet and when coming from the garden. All staff will wash hands before serving food, always wear gloves when changing nappies, dealing with accidents and caring for children's personal hygiene.

## **Risk Assessment of Activities, Trips and Outings**

All activities that take place both within the confines of Thamesview and out-with the premises have been assessed for risk and controls have been put in place to ensure that any hazards have been minimised, this is reviewed monthly and annually by the manager and health and safety officer. (See Risk Assessment log indoor and outdoor, monthly checks and Outing Policy)

Please respect the environment by tidying up the outside area once you have finished playing so that the next group of children can enjoy the use of the area. Staff must monitor the use of equipment at all times.

Staff must complete morning outside hazard logs and follow garden rota for staff to complete morning and afternoon checks. All indoor rooms are risk assessed by a senior staff member at open of the preschool.

## **COSHH**

### **Cleaning products and materials**

Thamesview Preschool follows COSHH (Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health) to ensure the safety at all times. All hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children in locked cupboards, in clear labelled containers. All staff are fully aware how to handle these substances, and know that they must use the protective clothing provided

## **Maintenance and Storage of Equipment**

At Thamesview preschool we have a wide variety of equipment and materials that are used by the children in their play and enjoyment at the setting. All equipment is bought from approved suppliers and is checked to ensure compliance with the British Safety Standards. All equipment is well maintained and checked on a regular basis to ensure that it presents no risk to the health and safety of the children. Equipment and materials which do pose a hazard are removed and this is recorded on the risk assessment sheet that is completed daily. We identify all substances that enter into the setting and assessments are made on the use and storage of these following COSHH guidance. All staff have read and understand the manual handling policy when handling children and equipment.

## **Smoking**

The Thamesview preschool operates a strict no smoking policy, this means that there is no smoking:

- On preschool premises or around the premises in sight of parents
- During setting time
- During preparation time
- During clear up time
- At staff training days
- At staff meetings
- At any gathering organised by the setting (unless it is a social gathering out with setting time and out with of the premises).
- When re entering the setting to freshen up, by washing hands, taking steps to ensure fresh breath and person.

## **Legislation**

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1999

Reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences regulations 2013

Control of Substance Hazardous to Health 2002

Manual Handlings Operations 1992 regulations

The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010

Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'

DfE and PHE (2020) 'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings'

Date of review – Jan 2024	Signature of Manager
Date to be reviewed –	

