**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must have a clear and well understood policy and procedures for assessing any risks to children’s safety, and review risk assessments regularly.

**THORNGUMBALD PRESCHOOL**

**8.4 Risk assessment**

**Policy statement**

Our setting believes 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.

This policy is based on the Preschool Learning Alliance risk assessment process, which follows five steps as follows:

* Identification of a risk: where is it and what is it?
* Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents, students etc?
* Assessment as to whether the level of 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 it thorough enough? If it is not working, it will need to be amended or maybe there is a better solution.

**Procedures**

* Our risk assessment process covers adults and children and includes:

Determining where it is helpful to make some written risks assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice and to demonstrate how we are managing risks if asked by parents and/or cares and inspectors.

Checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside, in relation to our premises and activities.

Assessing the level of risk and who might be affected.

Deciding which areas need attention and developing an action plan that specifies the action required, the time scales for action, the person responsible for the actions and any funding required.

* Where more than five staff and volunteers are employed, the risks assessment is written and is reviewed regularly.
* We maintain lists of health and safety issues, which are checked daily before the session begins, as well as those that are checked on a weekly and termly basis when a full risk assessment is carried out.

**Legal framework**

* Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

**Further guidance**

* Five steps to risk assessment (HSE 2011)

02/09/2021

*This document replaces policy adopted: 19/09/2013*