

## COSHH Policy

The COSHH Regulations are intended to prevent workplace disease resulting from exposure to hazardous substances for all persons at work and others who may be affected by such work. Basic occupational hygiene principles are followed by the Regulations which introduce a control framework by requiring an adequate assessment of the risks to health arising from work activities associated with hazardous substances.

- The introduction of adequate control measures
- Maintenance of the measures and equipment associated with them
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the measure and the health of the employees

Using hazardous substances can put people's health at risk. The level of harm may range from minor irritation to death. They can include: substances used directly in work activities e.g. latex, cleaning agents, glues, paints and naturally occurring substances e.g. blood, bacteria.

For the vast majority of commercial chemicals, the presence (or not) of a warning label will indicate whether COSHH is relevant. For example, household washing up liquid doesn't have a warning label but bleach does - so COSHH applies to bleach but not washing up liquid when used at work. However a COSHH assessment may still be undertaken if considered necessary by the person undertaking the assessment.

It is important that all staff follow health and safety advice and procedures such as keeping cleaning materials out of the reach of children and storing them in the kitchen. It is also important that doors to areas containing cleaning materials are kept closed and locked (i.e. kitchen and the storeroom / cloakroom area). When handling cleaning materials gloves should be worn. When changing nappies or dealing with body fluids, staff must wear aprons and gloves. Staff need to inform the Nursery Manager of any adverse reaction to any substances used, so that alternative chemicals can be sourced or the manufacturers informed.

### *COSHH Risk assessment*

The COSHH Regulations require an assessment of risk to be undertaken for hazardous substances. The Nursery Manager will arrange for these to be undertaken.

### *Training*

Staff will be informed during their induction process the correct procedure for handling cleaning products and doing nappy changes. Staff may also undergo Health and Safety formal training sessions.