



## **Physical Environment Policy**

### **Rationale**

At Stepping Stones Nursery 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.

### **Our Aims**

- To take positive steps to establish 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 ensure that all aspects of planning, design and building observe local control requirements.
- To implement specific local control requirements with regard to health and safety, planning and building requirements, provision of equipment and the use of staff.

### **Space within Stepping Stones Nursery**

- We provide appropriate space for children, including those with special needs and disabilities, to move freely and safely around the facility. The needs of the children as individuals and groups are looked at and space and resources amended accordingly as necessary.
- We organise the space to allow a wide range of play experiences, including whole-group activities.

### **Toilet facilities**

- We provide appropriate and sufficient toilets and washing facilities (one toilet and wash hand basin for every 10 children) for the number of children within the nursery, 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 snacks and meals for children in the nursery at meal times.
- We ensure that kitchen facilities comply with environmental health and food safety regulations.
- We identify specific procedures for the safety of the children relating to the kitchen facilities, including risk assessment and supervision.

### **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, toilet facilities and eating facilities.
- 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 good natural light.
- We ensure that the premises are kept at a comfortable temperature throughout the year.
- We ensure that the premises are for the sole use of the nursery 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.

### **Indoor provision**

- We create defined areas for different play activities, thus supporting the children in all the areas of learning.
- We use the available space creatively and flexibly to provide opportunities for the children's imaginative play, movement and 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.

### **Outdoor provision**

- We offer regular opportunities for children to play in a natural environment.
- We have daily opportunities for children to play outside, providing open space where they can run, as well as using play equipment.
- We use the outdoor environment to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for investigation and exploration, thus developing all six areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

### **Display**

- We create a rich and stimulating environment by using visual 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.

### **Babies and children under 2**

To meet the specific care needs of babies and children under 2, we have a separate base area for babies.

- This area includes designated sections for:
  - nappy changing
  - feeding
  - playing
  - Sleeping.
- We ensure that all health and hygiene measures, and all safety and security measures, apply to the above areas.
- We have separate play spaces for mobile and non-mobile babies.



- We provide an area that offers an appropriately stimulating play and sensory environment for babies by using colours, textures, light, sounds and movement.
- We provide appropriate play and sensory toys and materials (including both natural and manufactured materials) for babies to explore and handle.
- We provide comfortable seating for staff to enable them to hold and feed babies appropriately, and with care.
- We also encourage babies to develop their social interaction with older children.
- We use appropriate play or routine activities to introduce babies and children under 2 to older children.
- We consider the individual needs and stage of development of babies and children under 2 when supporting their interaction with older children.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date to be reviewed</b>
<i>August 2017</i>	<i>Adele Stone</i>	<i>August 2018</i>