

0.1 Health and safety procedures

01.14 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

Our aim

At Peekaboo Childcare, we work hard to make sure the environment is clean, hygienic, and safe for all children. This includes safely storing and using any substances that could be harmful if used incorrectly, such as cleaning products.

What is COSHH?

COSHH stands for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health – laws that tell settings how to safely use, store, and dispose of any chemicals that might be harmful.

This includes cleaning products, disinfectants, and anything labelled as hazardous.

How We Keep Children Safe

We follow strict safety steps:

- Hazardous products are locked away and never accessible to children.
- Only the minimum necessary cleaning products are kept on site.
- Bleach is never used when children are present (only for deep cleaning when the nursery is closed).
- Anti-bacterial cleaning sprays are only used in toilets, nappy areas, kitchens, and to wipe down meal time areas but not around children.
- Anti-bacterial hand sanitiser is used only during infection outbreaks if advised by Public Health.

Protective Equipment (PPE)

Available to staff is protective items such as:

- rubber gloves
- latex-free/vinyl gloves
- aprons

These help keep staff safe when handling any cleaning products. PPE is always available and regularly restocked.

Risk Assessments

For every chemical we use:

- A risk assessment is completed.
- Staff check what the product is, how it should be used, and how to use it safely.
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- Environmental impact is considered when buying and disposing of products.

This ensures children are never exposed to harmful substances.

Staff Vigilance

All staff are trained to:

- read labels carefully
- follow safety instructions
- never spray or use chemicals near children
- store products safely immediately after use
- report any concerns to the manager

Keeping children safe requires constant awareness, and staff take this responsibility seriously.

This procedure supports:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- COSHH Regulations 2002