

01 Health and safety procedures

01.16 Festival (and other) Decorations

Our Approach

At Peekaboo Childcare, we enjoy celebrating festivals and seasons with the children. Decorations can create a warm, exciting environment—but they must always be safe. This procedure explains how we safely use decorations in line with EYFS health and safety requirements.

Keeping Children Safe During Decorations

Children love festive displays and seasonal themes. We use these opportunities to talk to them about safety, such as not pulling decorations or touching electrical items, always at a level appropriate to their age.

Safety is always our priority.

Safe Decoration Materials

To reduce fire risks:

- Only fire-retardant decorations are used.
- Artificial Christmas trees must also be fire-retardant.
- Paper decorations are not used in public access areas such as corridors, lobbies or stairwells, as these increase fire risks.

Mounted pictures and children's artwork displayed safely on walls are still permitted and encouraged.

Electrical Safety

Any electrical items used with decorations (such as lights) must be:

- safety-tested before use
- used near a socket, not with long extension leads
- unplugged at the end of each day
- fully uncoiled if an extension lead is absolutely necessary (to avoid overheating)

Electrical leads are arranged safely so they do not create trip hazards.

Safe Placement of Decorations

We make sure that:

- Walkways, corridors and fire exits are never blocked by decorations
- Decorations are not placed near heaters, computers or other electrical equipment
- Decorations do not interfere with ceiling smoke detectors, sprinklers or lighting

This is essential for fire safety and clear evacuation routes.

Decorations in Children's Areas

In rooms used by children:

- Christmas trees and large decorations are positioned so children cannot pull them over and are properly supervised
- We never use glass or fragile decorations
- Small, detachable parts are avoided to prevent choking risks

Decorations are chosen with children's safety and developmental stage in mind.

EYFS and Legal reference

This procedure supports:

- EYFS maintaining a safe and secure environment
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974