



4.3 FOREST SCHOOL COSHH POLICY

The COSHH Regulations are intended to prevent work place disease from exposure to hazardous substances for all persons at our setting.

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
- . The maintenance of the measures and equipment associated
- . Monitoring the effectiveness of the measures and the health of the staff

Using hazardous substances can put people's health at risk. The level of harm could range from minor irritation to death. They can include substances used in Nursery activities such as latex, cleaning agents, glues, paints and also naturally occurring substances such as blood, urine etc (all known allergies will be listed)

For the vast majority of commercial chemicals, the presence (or not) of a warning label will indicate whether COSHH is relevant, (household washing up liquid does not have a warning label whereas bleach does, so COSHH is relevant to bleach) But COSHH assessments are ongoing amongst staff.

It is important that all practitioners and staff follow Health and Safety advice and procedures such as keeping cleaning material out of reach of children and storing them safely (high shelves, secure cupboard) When handling cleaning equipment rubber gloves should be worn, and when changing nappies or dealing with any bodily fluids then staff must wear gloves and an apron. Staff members need to alert the Supervisor to any adverse reaction to any substance used, so alternative chemicals can be sourced or manufacturers informed.

COSHH Risk assessment

The COSHH Regulations require an assessment of risk to be undertaken for hazardous substances in liaison with Christ Church Brockham, whose premises we share. A COSHH poster has been placed in a communal cleaning cupboard.

Staff are made aware of these requirements as part of their induction. They are informed of the correct procedure for handling cleaning products and changing nappies.

Staff are also responsible for being part of the daily Health and Safety checks and are aware that any concerns they have will be shared and dealt with accordingly and appropriately with foremost attention to the welfare of the children and staff.