

Name of setting: Nature Trails

Date submitted: January 2015 (updated July 2016)

Information supplied by: Alison Dyke (owner)

Title: Managing risk in a high risk environment

Background detail

The EYFS states that 'Providers should take into account the number of children, staff and layout of premises to ensure that a paediatric first aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly'. This case study has been developed to help us to identify best practice of how settings manage this requirement within the sector.

The nursery

Nature Trails Day Nursery is a purpose built nursery and has been operating for 11 years in a semi-rural environment in Cawston, Rugby. It is open 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday and offers a wide range of outdoor learning for children of all ages. Forest School is available for children aged three+ years. There are 140 children on role aged six months – four years (88 children daily) and the nursery is currently full (as of July 2016). There are four units, two in the main building and two purpose built log cabins for the pre-school children. At the last Ofsted inspection Nature Trails was graded 'Outstanding'.

Eighty percent of children attending the nursery live within two miles of the nursery as it serves a very large, new and expanding rural housing estate that has a mixed population of people from all socio-economic groups. The highest demand for places is for baby places for families where both parents are in professional occupations and require full day care once maternity and paternity leave has ended. Most of our children on role beyond the age of two and a half years are children that have been attending since they were enrolled as babies, as priority for pre-school places is given to those already attending the nursery.



Current arrangements in place

Nature Trails employs 37 staff - of these 32 hold Paediatric First Aid, two are booked to do Paediatric First Aid in September, and three do not work in direct contact with the children. All staff working in direct contact with the children hold Paediatric First Aid and new staff are booked on within three months of commencing employment.

About the practice

Considerations and assessment, managing the risk and staff

Nature Trails reviews risk assessments on an annual basis and involve staff in undertaking risk assessment reviews on the indoor and outdoor environments, play equipment and resources. Staff are trained to be reflective and continually assess risks within everyday practice. Practice in robust risk assessment has been strengthened through occurrence of particular incidents, such as an injury occurring due to faulty manufactured safety checked equipment. A post-accident report is carried out by the manager in consultation with staff following each accident so issues can be explored and actioned.

The level of risk associated with extensive outdoor play is slightly increased compared with other settings where the scope of outdoor play is more limited, however the setting recognises and values the benefits of “risky play”. To minimise risk Nature Trails carries out risk assessments to identify any areas that could result in accident or injury and ensures that most staff are skilled to be able to act quickly in an emergency and to give first aid assistance should an accident occur.

The setting’s health and safety officer (a senior member of care staff) checks the first aid provision monthly and orders equipment that needs to be replenished.

There are two first aid boxes in each of the four main areas of the nursery and a separate one in each area that is to be taken on any outings and walks or Forest School in the vicinity of the nursery. First Aid boxes, pay as you go mobile phones (topped up) and emergency contact numbers are taken on every outing. Forest School Leaders hold Paediatric Outdoor First Aid as well as Paediatric First Aid.

The nursery staff hours are from 7.45am until 6.15pm, three or four days a week so in each area the whole day is covered by people that have a Paediatric First Aid certificate. All staff with managerial responsibility have a First Aid At Work qualification (St John Ambulance) as well as Paediatric First Aid so there is always someone in the building that can treat adults if necessary.

Lunch time supervisors at Nature Trails are also funded to undertake Paediatric First Aid training. Two staff open the nursery at 7.30 each morning to receive children that attend the available early bird session (7.30 - 8am) and both of these members of staff must be level three qualified and hold a Paediatric First Aid certificate.



Ongoing development and funding

The nursery keep a record of all training that staff undertake and highlight renewal due dates, planning updates accordingly. The nursery runs an in house training programme using a reputable trainer (2 x 6 hour sessions on two consecutive Saturdays where staff are paid for attendance) every three years to enable all staff to update their skills. It also funds other staff to attend the county training programme, if for any reason they are unable to attend the in-house training, or if they are new employees requiring training.

The costs for this high level of training are factored into the budgets and the fees that parents are charged for *additional hours*. Any training that enhances quality is funded out of surplus made by the business offering of full day care.

Nature Trails believe that ALL nursery practitioners should be skilled in administering first aid and aims to train all staff.

Maintaining Quality

Checks of ongoing confidence and understanding of staff

Nature Trails holds reflective meetings weekly and these address issues such as health and safety at work, critical incidents and how to handle them and risk assessments. First aid is included in this. Staff undertake additional specific training, such as epi-pen training, to support children who are vulnerable to anaphylaxis reactions. This helps staff to be more knowledgeable about the difference between anaphylaxis reactions and allergic reactions. Competency and confidence in administering medication via epi-pens is supported through practice of using dummy equipment.

The nursery plans to continue to offer updates for Paediatric First Aid every two to three years to ensure that all staff update appropriately and will continue to use the Local Authority training package for new staff and other individuals that have missed out on the scheduled in-house training.

Key points of good practice

- High levels of qualified staff.
- Specialist training in Outdoor First Aid
- Lunch supervisors have Paediatric First Aid
- Managers with First Aid at Work qualifications
- Budgets and plans for ongoing training
- Staff paid to attend Saturday First Aid training
- Regular in house training
- Monitoring of health and safety issues.



National Day Nurseries Association

National Early Years Enterprise Centre, Longbow Close, Huddersfield, HD2 1GQ.

Tel: +44 (0)1484 40 70 70, Fax: +44(0)1484 40 70 60, Email: info@ndna.org.uk, Website: www.ndna.org.uk, Twitter: [@NDNAtalk](https://twitter.com/NDNAtalk),

Published: February 2015 – Updated: July 2016

