



Hillbury House Nursery

Registered Day Nursery (130690)

81 Denmark Villas, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3TH

Telephone: 01273 730004

Email: hihospaces@gmail.com

Risky Play Policy

At Hillbury House Nursery, we believe that taking appropriate risks is a vital part of children's learning and development. Through carefully supervised opportunities to explore, test limits, and make decisions, children build confidence, independence, and resilience-all within our nurturing, home-from-home environment. This policy outlines how we support and manage risky play in a safe and balanced way, following the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all children at Hillbury House Nursery are given access to risky play experiences that extend their learning and development while being supported by capable and confident adults.

Our objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for children to explore and extend their development through taking appropriate risks in a controlled environment.
- Support staff to supervise and guide children effectively so that they can access risky play while staying safe.
- Encourage children to become confident in taking risks and developing their own sense of judgement, skills, and independence.

Implementation

We understand that taking risks forms a vital part of building children's learning and development. Risky play encourages children to problem-solve, make decisions, and gain self-confidence. We will encourage children to take risks and challenge themselves while ensuring they are supported in a safe environment by vigilant and responsive adults.

Staff maintain and adhere to the ratios set out in the Statutory EYFS Framework. Staff deployment is carefully planned so that adults are always positioned both indoors and outdoors where children are playing, able to observe and support as needed.

Risk Assessments and Safety

At the beginning of each day, a comprehensive risk assessment of all areas within the nursery, including the garden, is carried out to ensure the environment is safe for children. Additional risk assessments are completed for any new equipment, resources, or planned activities.



Each quarter, we conduct an accident review to identify where incidents have occurred and whether additional risk assessments or actions are needed to reduce future risks. This reflective approach ensures our environment remains safe and stimulating.

Staff Responsibilities

It is the role and responsibility of all staff to remain aware of potential risks within the nursery and to position themselves appropriately to support, help, and encourage children as they play and explore.

- The Nursery Manager (Charis Minter) is responsible for daily safety checks, staff deployment, and ensuring risk assessments are completed.
- The Director (Liz Woolley) ensures staffing ratios are always maintained, accident reviews are completed, and EYFS requirements are upheld.
- All staff are responsible for recording, reporting, and reviewing any accidents or near-misses to continually improve practice.

Links to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Risky play supports several areas of learning within the EYFS, including:

- Physical Development – promoting balance, coordination, and body awareness.
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – building confidence, independence, and resilience.
- Understanding the World – encouraging curiosity, exploration, and critical thinking.
- Communication and Language – supporting children to express their thoughts and assess risk verbally.

Our Commitment

We value children's right to play freely, take age-appropriate risks, and develop self-awareness. Our goal is to strike the right balance between safety and adventure, empowering children to learn through experience within a secure and caring environment. Through thoughtful observation, planning, and reflection, we ensure that every child can thrive through meaningful, safe, and challenging play.