E-Safety for Children Policy

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to operate in conjunction with the Safeguarding Child Protection Policy, to ensure safety and welfare of children relating to the acceptable use of all ICT equipment in the whole nursery environment.

Monkey Puzzle understands that new technologies have become integral in today's society. The Internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. They can also significantly improve productivity in any workplace, and particularly in education environments of all types.

Monkey Puzzle promotes the safe use of ICT, the Internet and online social platforms to ensure that everyone is kept safe, but also develop capability and understanding of technology and Internet in a modern era of digitalisation.

Procedure

The following section outlines the responsibilities of the nursery setting with relation to e-Safety.

- Safeguard children against exposure to any harmful or offensive content, or from being the subject of inappropriate contact via the Internet or ICT
- Teach children and families of appropriate online and digital conduct, to decrease risk of harm through the use of technology
- Assess and manage risks involved with the application of ICT in the setting, monitoring effectiveness of risk assessment and consequent e-Safety strategies
- Develop a consistent approach to e-Safety across all areas of nursery life, developing capability around ICT in Early Years
- Educate staff and parents about the key risks involved in Internet use and/or digital technologies for children
- Practitioners help children to gain an effective understanding of when they might be at risk, including when using the internet, digital technology and social media and where to get support if they need it.
- Identify training procedures for all staff to support the successful application of e-Safety measures throughout all areas of learning and nursery operations
- Provide staff guidance on the acceptable use of ICT and the Internet as a tool to support effective learning and development
- Outline consequences for any breach in company policy relating to e-Safety in accordance with our Staff Code of Conduct
- Monitor and maintain an e-Safety incident log to document any incidents
- Liaise with local authority/relevant bodies to stay up to date with current ICT initiatives
- Ensure a robust Risk assessment is completed to minimise the risk to all users, and

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this is reviewed frequently.

Training and Education

All members of staff will be trained on the following areas relating to e-Safety. It is a joint responsibility to ensure staff members understand the acceptable use of ICT in education and:

- Risks involved with using the Internet in education
- Procedures to follow in the event of an e-Safety incident
- Effective use of ICT for the purpose of learning and development for children
- Acceptable use of ICT in conjunction with the Acceptable Use Policy
- Staff should act as good role models in their use of digital technologies, the Internet and personal/mobile devices

Young children should learn to be confident to take ownership of their own online safety and be supported to do so in environments that encourage and promote safe behaviour and provide user-friendly safety information and tools

- Provide an age-appropriate e-Safety curriculum in order to teach children the risks involved with the Internet and ICT
- Provide safe opportunities for children to explore ICT in the setting as a tool for learning and exploring the world around them
- Key e-Safety messages should be reinforced as part of a plan to educate children to make appropriate decisions when using ICT for learning

We recognise that sometime parents are less clear about their role in enabling children to manage the 'virtual world' and online risks in the same way that they manage risks inherent in the offline world. We will there:

- Promote the importance of E-Safety to parents to help them keep their children safe in the home environment
- Provide support to parents with how to recognise the risks involved in use of ICT and Internet

E-Safety Incident Reporting

In the event of any breach of this policy, incidents should be reported to the Management team and where necessary the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. All breaches should be dealt with in line with the Safeguarding & Child Protection and GDPR Policies.

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