



## **Merry Poppets Nursery**

### **POLICY FOR RISKY PLAY**

#### **Policy Statement**

Children need and want to take risks when they play. Merry Poppets nursery aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this Merry Poppets aim to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of injury.

This will include risk assessments completed by the staff on the equipment and activities the children participate in. Risk taking is an essential feature of a child development.

Merry Poppets aims to offer children the chance to encounter acceptable risks as part of a stimulating, challenging and controlled learning environment whether inside or out.

#### **Our Aim**

To manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep the children safe.

Exposure to some risks is actually a benefit, it satisfies a basic human need and gives children the chance to learn about the real consequence of risk taking.

Risk taking like other skills need to be learned and practised over time. By empowering children in their self-management, trusting them to make decisions around risk and allowing them to push themselves to that point of risk and danger. We are enabling them to learn and practise their risk assessment skills consistently giving them confidence in their own abilities.

Children will be monitored and observed at all times during risky play activities which could include:

Cutting up their own snack

Using a knife/ serving their own foods

Climbing & Jumping off the outdoor play equipment/balancing

Using equipment such as tyres to balance on or real equipment such as spades/forks for digging

Running and negotiating space

Staff will encourage and support children to manage their own risks through play by:

- Modifying the environments as much as possible to meet the needs of each child



**Early Learning Day Care Nurseries**

- Being aware that some children may need longer to feel confident engaging in an activity such as balancing or climbing
- Encourage the children to help each other
- Staff will have a positive attitude towards accidents if they should occur – talking about what happened and discussing alternative activities rather than banning the equipment or activity that has resulted in an accident.

### **Procedure**

Staff will complete a risk assessment on the activity/equipment prior to the children accessing the risky play activity. The other activities used every day are risk assessed in our normal open and closing checks.