E-Safety

The use of technology is growing and children are exposed to technology from a very young age. I recognise the benefit of using electronic devices to support children's learning in my provision and to help me comply with the record keeping and learning and development aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2017).

E-safety covers all electronic devices including cameras, computers, videos and DVD recorders, mobile phones and other devices capable of taking photographs or linking to the internet. It also includes the use of social media, software, emails, chat rooms, blogs, laptops, games consoles and new technology as I am aware that internet and technology is constantly evolving.

For more information about how I use mobile phones and cameras, please see my **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures**.

How the internet is used
The internet is used in different ways in the setting:
* The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2017) requires providers to teach children about technology which is generally accepted to include learning about the internet. I aim to take a common sense approach to how long children spend using ICT during the day and the suitability of ICT resources for various ages of children. Parents are consulted about time spent on the internet and, for example, watching television and their wishes are followed. Parents, please do not allow your child to bring electronic games rated over the age of the child.
* I use the internet to send messages including email and photos to parents and children; share information with families.

The risks of using the internet
I am aware of the risks of allowing children to go online on computers, tablets, mobile phones, watches, gaming etc and:
* I aim to supervise use to protect children when using the internet;
* I share safe internet messages with parents so they can support their children at home;
* I teach children about how to use the internet safely;
* Children are made aware of the risks of being online and know how to report any concerns.

Keeping data safe
I understand that while technology is useful for learning it can also present safety problems when misused and this policy has been written to clarify appropriate technology use within the provision and by parents of children who attend my provision when related to childminding and childminded children and –
* The broadband is secured by a password;
* Virus protection software is automatically updated;
* Laptops, tablets and other ICT equipment which contain sensitive data about children and families are secure and do not leave the premises;
* Tablets and laptops 'time out' to a password protected page when unused;
* Memory sticks, when used, are locked away.
* The password to any secure documents is shared with my partner to ensure it remains secure should I be injured or fall ill.

Online communications
All internet enabled devices are monitored to ensure safe internet use. Any technology used by children has internet safety controls in place so children cannot access inappropriate sites. Every effort will be made to keep internet security updated and online usage by children will be monitored. Any uploading of personal information onto websites must be carried out in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be done without prior written permission from the parent involved.
* The website and facebook page contains photos of children and staff.
  Note – if photos of children or staff are used online consent (parent or staff member permission) must be sought in writing in advance and can be withdrawn at any time.

I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office - ICO - www.ico.gov.uk: please see my ICO registration certificate.

If there is a concern about e-safety, I will act on the concern to comply with the requirements of the EYFS, Childcare Registers, Ofsted and the ICO.

If you have any questions about my Policy/Procedures or would like to make any comments, please ask.

Signed (Childminder)   May 2018   Review Date: Summer 2019