**Emergency and Alternative Care Policy - Sept 2025**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we prioritise the safety, security, and well-being of every child. This policy aligns with the revised EYFS, September 2025, detailing our preparedness and responsive measures during emergencies and ensuring continuity of care.

**Emergency Preparedness:**

* An up-to-date, comprehensive emergency plan outlines responses for potential emergencies, including fire, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and lockdown situations.
* Staff are regularly trained and familiarised with all emergency protocols.

**Emergency Contact Information:**

* Accurate, confidential, emergency contact information is collected from parents/legal guardians, including alternative contacts.

**Communication with Parents:**

* Prompt notification to parents/legal guardians is prioritised during emergencies using established communication methods (e.g., phone, text, email).
* Ongoing updates will be provided during the emergency.

**Medical Emergencies:**

* All staff members are trained in paediatric first aid and basic life support.
* Immediate medical intervention through 999 services will be sought if required, with timely communication to parents.

**Evacuation Plan:**

* A clearly defined and regularly practiced evacuation plan is maintained for use during emergencies such as fires or hazardous conditions.
* Evacuation routes and assembly points are visibly marked and known to all staff and children.

**Lockdown Procedures:**

* Clearly defined lockdown procedures are established and regularly reviewed, covering external security threats.
* Staff members receive training to ensure children's safety during lockdowns.

**Alternative Care Arrangements:**

* Should circumstances prevent regular operations (e.g., facility damage, staff shortages), we will inform parents/carers as soon as possible.
* Parents/carers will be promptly informed of arrangements and provided with detailed information.

**Communication with Emergency Services:**

* A designated person (manager or assigned staff member) will liaise with emergency services during incidents, providing essential details about the setting and occupants.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* This policy fully incorporates the EYFS 2025 emphasis on proactive planning, responsive care, clear communication, and children's well-being in emergency scenarios.

Signed: Chairperson  
Date: September 2025