**Manual Handling Policy (EYFS September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children and staff members. This Manual Handling Policy outlines our approach to minimising the risk of injury associated with manual handling activities, including situations where children need to be handled safely for their well-being within the setting.

**Definition of Manual Handling:**

* Manual handling refers to any activity that involves the lifting, carrying, pushing, or pulling of objects or children by hand or bodily force.

**Risk Assessment:**

* All staff members will conduct thorough risk assessments before engaging in any manual handling activity involving children.
* Risk assessments will consider the child's age, size, physical capabilities, and any special needs.

**Alternatives to Manual Handling:**

* Whenever possible, alternatives to manual handling of children will be explored to minimise injury risks to both staff and children.
* Strategies such as using equipment, encouraging independent movement, or seeking assistance from another staff member will be considered.

**Training and Education:**

* Staff members involved in manual handling activities will receive appropriate training.
* Training will include safe handling techniques, proper lifting postures, and methods to prevent strain or injury.

**Safe Handling Techniques for Children:**

* Staff members will be educated on how to safely lift and carry children, considering each child's age and physical development.
* Techniques such as bending the knees, using legs to lift, and maintaining close contact with the child's body will be emphasised.

**Communication:**

* Staff will communicate openly with managers about any existing injuries, health conditions, or limitations affecting their ability to handle children safely.

**Children's Safety:**

* Manual handling of children will only be carried out when necessary for their safety and well-being.
* Staff members will be trained to recognise situations where manual handling is required to prevent harm or injury to the child.

**Support for Staff:**

* Staff members facing challenges in manual handling due to pregnancy, health conditions, or other factors will receive additional support and adjustments as necessary.

**Reporting and Review:**

* Staff members will report any incidents or near-misses related to manual handling of children.
* Regular reviews of manual handling procedures will be conducted to identify areas for improvement.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* This policy aligns with the EYFS 2025 framework.

Signed: Chairperson  
Date: September 2025