**Risk Assessment Policy (Updated for EYFS 2025)**

**Policy Statement**  
At Little Acorns preschool, we are committed to **providing a safe and secure environment** for all children, staff members, parents, and visitors. This policy outlines our **approach to risk assessments**, ensuring that potential hazards are identified, risks are evaluated, and appropriate control measures are implemented to **maintain a safe environment**.

**Risk Assessment Process**  
• Risk assessments will be conducted for **all areas** of the setting, including **indoor and outdoor spaces, equipment, and activities**.  
• Off-site activities and outings will be **assessed separately**, considering **location-specific risks**.  
• Risk assessments will be **ongoing and regularly reviewed** to address changes in the environment, equipment, or activities.

**Identified Hazards**  
• Hazards may include **physical, environmental, health-related, fire, and emergency hazards**.  
• Staff will conduct **daily checks** to identify risks.  
• Any new hazards identified will be recorded, and **immediate action** will be taken where necessary.

**Risk Evaluation**  
• Each identified hazard will be evaluated based on **likelihood and severity**.  
• A **risk rating scale** will be used to determine the level of risk associated with each hazard.  
• Where possible, **hazards will be eliminated**; if this is not feasible, **control measures** will be put in place to **reduce risks to an acceptable level**.

**Control Measures**  
• Preventative actions will be implemented to **reduce or eliminate** risks.  
• Safety measures may include **modifying the environment, providing protective equipment, or implementing specific supervision protocols**.  
• Control measures will be **monitored regularly** to ensure their effectiveness.

**Staff Training**  
• All staff members will receive **training in risk assessment procedures**, hazard identification, and safety measures.  
• Training will include **emergency protocols, first aid, and fire safety**.  
• Staff will be expected to **actively participate** in maintaining a safe environment.

**Record Keeping**  
• Written records of all risk assessments will be **maintained and updated** regularly.  
• Records will include **identified hazards, risk evaluations, control measures, and review dates**.  
• Documentation will be securely stored in **compliance with data protection regulations**.

**Parental Involvement**  
• Parents will receive details on **emergency procedures, safety policies, and off-site risk assessments for outings**.

**Regular Reviews**  
• Risk assessments will be reviewed daily for indoor and outdoor areas, or **more frequently if required** due to **changes in the setting, equipment, or legislation**.  
• Following an incident or near miss, risk assessments will be **immediately reviewed and updated** to prevent reoccurrence.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes**  
• The **EYFS 2025 framework** emphasises the **importance of continuous risk assessment** to ensure children's safety while allowing for exploration and learning.  
• This policy aligns with **EYFS 2025 safety expectations**, supporting **a proactive approach to risk management** in **indoor and outdoor environments**.  
• We ensure that children have **opportunities to take managed risks in a controlled environment**, fostering **independence, resilience, and problem-solving skills**.

**Signed:** Chairperson  
**Date:** September 2025