



Babies and Toddlers Policy

At Spice Childcare we care for children under the age of two and have adapted our practice to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in this age group. We ensure their health, safety and well-being through the following:

- Children under the age of two will have a separate base room and will not be cared for in groups larger than nine.
- Care will be taken to ensure that babies and toddlers do not have access to activities containing small pieces, which could be swallowed or otherwise injure the child.
- All equipment will be checked daily before the children access the area. This will include checking the stability of the cots and highchairs and ensuring restraints on the highchairs, pushchairs and prams are intact and working.
- All doors are fitted with viewing panels to ensure the safety of children.
- Outdoor shoes will be removed or covered before entering the baby room. Staff will remind parents and visitors to adhere to this procedure.
- Potties will be washed and disinfected after every use. Changing mats are wiped with antibacterial cleanser before and after each nappy change.
- Each baby must have his/her own bedding which will be washed at least weekly or when necessary.
- Cot mattresses must meet safety standards.
- Children under two years will not be given pillows, cot bumpers or any soft furnishings in order to prevent risk of suffocation. We follow all cot death guidelines.
- Cots will be checked before use to ensure no items are within reach i.e. hanging over or beside the cot (e.g. fly nets, cables).
- All highchairs are fitted with restraints which are used at all times. Children will never be left unattended in high chairs. Restraints will be removed and washed weekly or as needed.

- Babies will never be left propped up with bottles as it is both dangerous and inappropriate.
- Sleeping children will be supervised at all times.
- Checks on sleeping babies will be completed every 10 minutes. These are to be documented with the time and staff initials on the sleep check form.
- Staff should not change nappies whilst pregnant until a risk assessment has been discussed and conducted. Students will only change nappies with the support and close supervision of a qualified member of staff.
- Where food is prepared for babies there is a separate area which is specifically designated for this preparation.
- Parents are asked to make up bottles of formula milk at home.
- Bottles and teats will be thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water after use (they will not be washed in the dishwasher).
- Bottles will be disposed of after two hours.
- A designated area is available for mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies.
- Labelled mother's breast milk will be stored in the fridge.
- All dummies will be stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross-contamination occurs.
- Sterilisers will be washed out daily after use.

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	
Signed on behalf of Spice Childcare	
Date for review	