**Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Policy**

COSHH is the law that requires employers to control substances that are hazardous to health. This policy relates specifically to the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The regulations require employers to:

* Assess the risks to health and safety
* Decide what precautions are needed to prevent ill health
* Prevent or control exposure
* Make sure the control measures are used and maintained
* Ensure that all employees are properly informed, trained and supervised

Chemicals used in the setting for cleaning, washing, or as part of your practice may be hazardous or cause illness if not used correctly. To comply with these regulations, keep a list of all hazardous or potentially hazardous substances that are used in the provision. This could include glue, shaving foam, soap, cleaning materials etc. In addition to chemicals, all body fluids are to be treated as substances hazardous to health and should be carefully dealt with using protective gloves and materials that can be safely disposed of. All practitioners using chemicals or products should be given advice on their correct use where necessary.

Effects from exposure to hazardous substances can range from mild irritation to acute or chronic illness or even death. In order to minimise these risks, Rainbow Nursery will ensure:

* All staff/volunteers/students receive mandatory COSHH training as part of their induction process, and regularly updates thereafter;
* Potential risks are identified, managed and rectified, where possible, through the Risk Benefit Assessment process;
* There is an accurate inventory of hazardous substances used or stored on each site;
* All substances are stored in a specific location;
* All substances are kept in suitable, closable containers;
* Hazardous substances will not be used or stored on site if there a reasonably practical alternative;
* Suitable equipment and PPE will be made available where appropriate;
* Any incidents of harm or injury from hazardous substance tasks will be fully investigated and the potential of further or repeated risk minimised.

All staff must:

* Study and understand the COSHH training provided to the best of their ability;
* Follow protocol and training provided in regards to COSHH;
* Follow the storage, dilution and use guidelines provided;
* Follow good hygiene practices;
* Use PPE as instructed;

**Date Completed: October 2023**

**Review Date: October 2024**

*This policy will be monitored in line with relevant legislation and good practice guidelines*