

HAPPY HEDGEHOGS LTD

Health and Safety, suitability of premises, environment and equipment

6.8 Emergency Closure & Adverse Weather Conditions

Policy statement

The safety of children, staff members and visitors on the premises is paramount and Happy Hedgehogs takes their duty to protect the wellbeing of these people very seriously.

There may be occasions when, due to unforeseen circumstances, Happy Hedgehogs may be forced to close for a limited time.

Possible reasons for closure could be (but not limited to):

- *Weather: heavy snow, flooding etc. resulting in staff not being able to get to work, access to site is not safe, or temperatures are prohibitively low to be outside all day.*
- *Outbreaks of illness leading to not enough staff being able to maintain staff-child ratio in nursery.*
- *Structural damage which would result in the nursery being unable to provide a safe and healthy environment for both children and staff.*
- *Outbreak of contagious disease leading to closure*
- *Gas leak or power cut leading to lack of heat/light.*

Procedures

Bad Weather:

In the event of heavy snowfall, which could make it hazardous for both staff and parents to travel or that we deem temperatures are too low to safeguard children's welfare; we will make the decision to close the nursery.

If you wake up to heavy snowfall, or heavy snowfall occurs before the opening of nursery then we will notify you of closure using our closed Facebook page.

Should severe weather occur during the day, we will contact parents by telephone and request that children are collected as soon as possible.

If the nursery closes due to circumstances such as these which are beyond our control, fees may still be payable.

Other reasons for closure:

Should there be a need to close the nursery prior to opening in the morning, we will endeavour to contact all parents as early as possible to advise them of the closure. If we are unable to contact all parents, then a notice will be displayed at the setting.

In case of an emergency closure during opening times we will ensure the complete safety of the children by following our evacuation policy. We will contact parents and request that their child/children are collected. At least two members of staff will remain with the children until collected.

If the nursery closes due to circumstances such as these which are beyond our control, fees may still be payable.

In the event of a pandemic, the nursery may be advised to close. Parents will be notified as soon as possible, and the nursery will await further guidance from the government.

If we have reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease, we will inform OFSTED and act upon any advice given from the Health Protection Agency (HPA)

Further guidance

Health Protection Agency.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Happy Hedgehogs LTD
Held on	July 2020
Date to be reviewed	July 2021
Name of signatory	Carly Turner
Role of signatory	Director