

# Baby room safety newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We regularly review our practices and procedures to ensure the safety of our children in our care. This term we have reviewed some safety practices affecting under two's and would like to share with you some changes that will be enforced immediately as they are designed to keep your child safe.

We would appreciate it if you could spare a moment to look at these updates listed below. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to working in partnership with you.



**Hair Ties**

We understand that some parents and carers like their babies to wear hair bows or hair ties. However please note that hair ties can damage your baby's hair unless they're fairly loose. Unfortunately if they're loose babies can pull them out of their own hair and swallow or choke on them. Further dangers associated with hair ties may also include:

- **Hair Damage**  
Babies and children have thinner, more fragile hair than adults, so it's more easily damaged. Putting tight ties on fragile hair can cause traction *alopecia*, a type of hair loss. Hair can break off in the area where the ties are tightest or stop growing altogether in those areas. Stop using hair ties if you notice any type of hair damage; expect it to take around three months for the damaged hair follicles to recover and for new hair to grow, but permanent hair loss can result if you don't loosen the tension.
- **Choking Risks**  
A baby will put almost anything in their mouth. If your baby has very fine hair, hair ties often won't stay on unless you make them excessively tight. Loose ties, however, pose a choking risk. Hair ties that have added decorative pieces can be a choking hazard even if they stay in place. Hair ties and hair bows are therefore discouraged in under two's in our baby room.
- **Scratching and pulling hair**  
Babies are drawn to each other's hair accessories, particularly if they are colourful. It is a natural urge to pull on hair to get to the pretty hair accessory that catches their attention. This can lead to scratching and hair pulling and can make the baby wearing the item very emotionally and physically distressed.



**Hair Beads**

Our curriculum planning is designed to allow children opportunities to participate in activities throughout all classrooms of the nursery. This is an EYFS requirement for enriching learning and a means of promoting the EYFS "Curiosity Approach and British Values" government policies for early years learning. To enable this to happen safely and prevent children

from chocking and other children pulling on them we kindly remind parents/carers to respect the '**no bead rule**' and '**Jewellery policy**'.



### **Jewellery**

As babies touch and tug on their little ears traditional earrings can easily come loose and fall off. Rather than risking little ones pulling off conventionally backed earrings or skipping earrings all together, we advise parents to choose **baby screw-back earrings** which makes it very difficult, if not impossible, for a baby to pull off their own **earrings**. These are widely available from most retailers, just ask in store. We always urge parents to look at our **Jewellery Policy** to assess if their baby's jewellery is safe. We advise where possible babies should not wear jewellery, until they are aged two, however, where parents wish for their child to wear jewellery, they must ensure it is not loose, too tight or sharp, as per our jewellery policy. Please note our policy also does not recommend loose fitting jewellery such as necklaces and bangles, loose items such as these can snag on other children's clothes and break, they may also pose a strangulation risk.



### **Safe foot wear**

Pre-walking babies benefit from having bare feet as they are learning to walk, they need to be able to feel everything and wiggle their toes. Some experts warn that walking shoes at this point will just create an unnecessary barrier between them and the ground. It will make it more difficult for them to grip and learn how to balance themselves in this whole new way. Little feet however can do with some extra protection from cold or rough surfaces so soft soled pre walking shoes such as moccasins are often advisable for this stage. They are soft and light enough to allow your baby freedom and flexibility but they give feet a little extra barrier to protect little soles and toes from injuries.

Slipper moccasin socks with non slip grip are also recommended for babies who like to pull off their shoes.



### **Nails**

Please ensure baby's nails are regularly trimmed as babies can injure themselves or others more easily with sharp or uneven nails.



### **The developmental stages of learning to walk**

Babies learn to walk in stages ranging from creeping, crawling and stepping, to pulling, cruising and walking. Babies usually take their first steps around 12 to 15 months, but some walk a little later and some earlier. Some even skip a stage. We understand this can be a worrying time for parents.

However be reassured that our practitioners are familiar with all stages of a baby's development and so they will be aware of the dangers each stage of development brings (such as falls and trips) and will work in partnership with you to discuss a plan as to how these risks will be managed.

For example during these months of practicing walking most toddlers take a few **tumbles**. We acknowledge however that tumbles are a normal part of learning to walk so we will be expecting some tumbles and minor falls to take place. However we will aim to allow babies to tumble and learn to balance within a safe environment - will have robust plans and regular risk assessments in place and will have regular staff training in place to prevent and reduce the risk of any serious injury or falls.

Some of our risk assessment practices include:

- ❖ Keeping exploration areas clutter free with soft carpeted surfaces and away from sharp corners of furniture.
- ❖ Daily and weekly risk assessments of toys, equipment and indoor and outdoor premises
- ❖ Regular supervision of activities by senior staff
- ❖ Regular staff training
- ❖ Regular feedback sessions with parents/carers

With all that is involved, we accept that some trips and falls are common although many result in mild injuries such as bumps, possibly minor cuts or mild bruises. We will call parents on the phone where babies experience bumps, however mild to the head as part of standard procedure. Please check all our safety and hygiene policies online at [www.elephantandcastledaynursery.co.uk](http://www.elephantandcastledaynursery.co.uk)

We will also conduct daily and weekly planning of fun and stimulating activities for all babies and carry out daily risk assessments. Risk assessment is an integral part of our work and covers matters such as e.g. ratio of staff, ages of children, suitability of premises or equipment. This enables us to deal with any foreseen risks quickly and effectively.

You are welcome to come inside and see our weekly planning of activities, we also welcome you to discuss any concerns you may have.

**Thank you for your cooperation, we look forward to working with you to keep your babies safe.**  
**Management**