**Sample safety manual**

Childcare

**Introduction**

This manual contains safety policies designed to control risks associated with operations at **(Insert company name)** and provide the safest possible work environment for our employees. While this safety manual is intended to be comprehensive, it is impossible to cover every scenario, therefore if you have questions regarding a specific task contact your supervisor who can provide guidance.

The best ambassadors of our safety program are those performing the jobs daily. If you observe a safety issue or have a suggestion that could improve the safety measures outlined in this document, please speak with your supervisor. It takes the dedicated effort of the entire team to prevent workplace incidents.

Incidents are the result of unsafe conditions, acts or practices. Many incidents are caused using unsafe equipment, tools used in an unsafe manner or failure to follow safe work practices. Therefore, the implementation of a comprehensive safety program is critical to maintaining a safe work environment for all employees. To ensure a safe work environment, it is imperative that we strictly enforce our policy. Violations of safety policies and procedures could result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. If you have questions and/or need additional information regarding the contents of this manual, you should speak with your supervisor or their predetermined designee immediately.

**Safety policy statement**

Providing a safe work environment for **(Insert company name)** staff is of the utmost importance. The goal of our safety policy is to provide guidance on how to avoid risks associated with the jobs performed by our employees. It is impossible to provide guidelines for every situation; therefore, we depend on you, our staff, to make safe choices in your daily work. Our success depends on everyone performing their job in the safest possible manner.

**Safety is a team effort**

# With any great team, each member must know their role and how to perform it well to achieve success. The same is true for safety teams.

1. **Director’s responsibilities:**
2. Provide a safe work environment and adequate supervision of childcare operations. This includes, as applicable, the provision of tools and equipment, proper safety equipment/clothing, training and on-site safety direction.
3. Periodic inspection of each department.
4. Ensure prompt preventative and corrective action is taken with unsafe conditions or actions.
5. Ensure all accidents are reported and investigated in a timely manner.
6. Review incident reports to verify corrective action has been taken.
7. **Supervisor’s responsibilities:**
8. Promote safety awareness and lead by example.
9. Ensure employees are trained on safe work practices related to their assigned job tasks.
10. Ensure that safety equipment and protective devices are provided and properly used.
11. Conduct frequent safety inspections of all work areas and operations to improve and eliminate unsafe conditions.
12. Take prompt corrective action when unsafe conditions or unsafe actions are observed.
13. Investigate and report to the director, all incidents involving childcare personnel or property.
14. Review newly purchased equipment to identify potential risks being introduced in to the operations.
15. Inform employees of the disciplinary policy and takes appropriate action when warranted.
16. **Teachers and other employees’ responsibilities:**
17. Follow the facilities safety policy and procedures.
18. Report unsafe conditions and practices to supervisors immediately.
19. Keep work areas clean and orderly at all times.
20. Operate equipment only if you have been authorized and instructed on safe work procedures.
21. Report all accidents/incidents to the principal immediately and complete an incident report as soon as possible.

**What to do if an incident occurs**

While every effort is made to avoid incidents, it is important to know what to do if one should occur. Acting quickly and getting the injured employee the treatment needed as soon as possible can help to prevent further injury.

* Report all incidents, no matter how minor, immediately to management
* Prompt reporting ensures the employee receives proper treatment if it is required, and ensures appropriate corrective action is taken to avoid future injuries
* Perform first-aid and CPR, only if you are trained
* Follow established Bloodborne Pathogens procedures
* Arranging transportation and accompany the injured employee to the medical facility should be done by the supervisor
* Facilitating paperwork and answering questions of both the treating physician and injured employee should be done by the supervisor
* Incident report forms must be completed by the supervisor and injured employee as soon as possible; route as directed on the form

**Emergency action plans**

Emergency situations such as fire, severe weather, bomb threat, etc., require swift and immediate action by our employees to ensure the safety of everyone. In the event of an emergency, our staff should be prepared for the following:

Supervisor/management or designee for their respective areas will:

* Direct actions of personnel
* Know the location of fire extinguishers
* Know who is first-aid and CPR trained
* Identify individuals who need special assistance during evacuations and decide to ensure their safety
* Familiarize employees with evacuation route
* Ensure the building is clear and account for personnel after building evacuation

**Fire evacuation:**

* Turn off nearby equipment and walk to the nearest exit, when the fire alarm sounds and if it is safe to do so
* Assemble away from the building at the designated assembly area
* Remain outside until the all-clear is given by responding fire personnel
* The supervisor or their designee will account for all individuals

**Severe weather:**

* Stay inside the building
* Proceed to the appropriate designated shelter when directed

**Bomb threat:**

* Bomb threats must always be taken seriously
* Document as much information as possible
* Report the incident immediately to the supervisor
* The supervisor or the authorities will determine if the situation warrants evacuation; if called for, follow the procedures used for a fire evacuation

**Intruder lockdown procedures:**

All visitors will sign-in at the office and wear an identifying ‘Visitor’ badge during operational hours.

In the event of an intruder on site, the staff will radio out the message, ‘A stranger is on site. This is a lockdown situation.’ This will be followed by a description and an approximate location of the individual(s).

* The staff will immediately call 911 and notify the director
* Classroom teachers will direct students to safe areas in each room
* Internal and external windows and doors to classrooms will be locked with shades drawn
* Designated staff will be responsible to lock internal and external doors to the building
* The ‘lockdown’ will remain in effect until law enforcement officers confirm it is safe to resume activities.

**Recordkeeping**

Documentation is a critical component for maintaining a safe working environment. The following records are retained in personnel files:

* Employee training records
* Certifications
* Incident reports
* Hazard identification and corrective actions
* Signed acknowledgments
* Equipment inspection/certifications

**Violence in the workplace**

It is the policy of **(Insert company name)** that violence or the threat of violence, even in a joking manner, is not appropriate and subject to disciplinary procedures, up to and including termination.

Employees are to report any acts or threats of violence to their supervisor immediately. Report the behavior or threats made, give facts of where and when the event occurred, what was said and include any witnesses.

Anyone who observes a weapon on the premises is required to report it to the supervisor immediately.

**Biological exposure control plan**

Within the scope of your job, you may encounter blood or other bodily fluids that have the risk of transmitting blood and/or airborne diseases. Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) if it is necessary for you to be in contact with blood or other body fluids. For more information on biological exposures, visit www.CompSourceMutual.com.

**Ergonomics**

**(Insert company name)** has an ergonomics program to educate and train employees on the basic principles of ergonomics and proper body mechanics. The program includes written guidelines to prevent musculoskeletal injuries caused by exertion, repetitive motion or sustained posture; these include back injuries, sprains, strains, carpal tunnel syndrome or other cumulative trauma disorders.

Depending on the physical demands of a particular job, changes in the layout of your workstation or procedures may need to be changed to minimize the risk of a cumulative trauma injury. It is important to request an ergonomic evaluation if you believe your workstation or procedures need to be changed. Once the ergonomic evaluation is complete, modifications identified should be implemented. It is important that employees follow the recommendations and modifications to help prevent a cumulative trauma injury.

Physical activities with the children under your care may pose potential risks of sprain or strain of muscles and joints. Use adult chairs while reading or otherwise participating in children sit-down activities. Limit as much as possible repeated kneeling and bending at the waist while interacting with the children.

Lifting of both children and items can cause back injuries if you do not follow correct lifting techniques. The amount of lifting, twisting, holding, and positioning of children can lead to fatigue, muscle strain and potential injury.

Unlike lifting a box, which may have handles, lifting a child offers more challenges. Proper lifting procedures include:

* Determining if you NEED to move the child
* Knowing the behavior of the child you are lifting and anticipating their actions
* Assist the child without lifting when possible
* Sit down and have them come to you

**General policies for all operations**

* Employees should perform their job tasks in a safe manner, speak with your supervisor if you have any questions regarding safe work practices
* Illness and/or extreme fatigue may impact your ability to perform your job safely; it is the employee’s responsibility to monitor their well-being and ensure they are physically able to perform their job tasks safely
* Horseplay of any kind is strictly forbidden, and employees who willfully engage in horseplay are subject to disciplinary procedures, up to and including termination
* Clean and orderly work areas prevent injuries; take time each day to keep your work area clear of unnecessary materials, tools and/or equipment
* All exits and stairways should be clear and free of obstructions
* Use only approved, grounded electrical extension cords
* Extension cords are to be unplugged, coiled and stored in their designated locations when not in use
* Dispose of extension cords that show wear and tear immediately
* Follow proper lifting techniques and seek assistance when necessary
* Ensure all equipment (dolly, etc.) is in good condition before use
* Visually check equipment and machinery before use and ensure work area is clear
* Never leave machines or equipment running while unattended
* Loose clothing, long hair and/or jewelry should not be worn by employees working around or near moving machinery or equipment
* Use of a personal music device in the work area, including vehicles, is at the discretion of the immediate supervisor
* Smoking is strictly prohibited

**Slip, trip and fall prevention**

* Footwear should be flat, slip-resistant with a closed toe and heel
* Floors should be kept clean and dry; use designated wet floor signage whenever necessary
* Keep toys picked up at regular intervals and other items such as chairs under should be placed under tables to prevent tripping hazards
* Mops, brooms, boxes and other articles should be properly stored and cleared from passageways
* Use a step stool or ladder when reaching overhead
* Do not stand on boxes, chairs, desks, tables or other elevated surfaces
* During inclement weather, specifically snow, sidewalks and entryways must be kept clear of ice and snow buildup

**Ladders**

* Inspect ladders before every use
* Chairs, boxes or other elevated surfaces should not be used as ladders
* Maintain 3-point contact (two hands, one foot or both feet, one hand) when ascending or descending ladders; always face the ladder
* When using a step ladder, do not climb higher than the second step from the top
* When using an extension ladder, do not climb higher than the third rung from the top

**Extreme temperature conditions**

(Insert company name) operations may expose employees to extreme temperatures. Employees are responsible for monitoring their physical condition both on and off the job and notifying the supervisor of any condition that may impact their ability to tolerate extreme temperatures. For more information on safely working in extreme temperatures, visit www.CompSourceMutual.com.

**Hazard communication**

Chemical substances and mixtures used by the company are to be evaluated and approved before use. The associated risks with products should be communicated to employees before use and can be found by reviewing the product Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Annual training on proper hazard communication is provided with additional training as new products are introduced in the work environment. For more information on hazard communication, visit www.CompSourceMutual.com.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Foot and hand protection:**

Footwear must be suitable for the type of work you perform and the environment in which you work. It is recommended that all employees follow the footwear guidelines listed under the slip trip and fall prevention section of this safety manual. However, for employees in certain work areas, these practices may be required.

Hand protection should be selected based on the risk associated with the tasks assigned. However, in operations where hand protection may cause or contribute to an injury, other methods of hand protection should be used. Consult your supervisor regarding the proper hand protection and use. **(Insert company name)** will provide proper hand protection in areas where it is necessary.

**Outerwear protection:**

The clothing worn to work should not only be appropriate for the type of work you perform but safe for the environment in which you work. Shorts and tank top shirts should not be worn. Clothing should be cotton or other natural fiber, and if clothing or gear becomes contaminated, it should be replaced immediately.

**Kitchen/cooking operations:**

* Employees must be trained on the safe operation of all machinery they use
* All safety guards must be in place before operating the equipment
* Electrical equipment must be unplugged and in the off position when not in use
* Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should always be used
* Follow the manufacturer’s guidelines when cleaning equipment
* Cooking tools/utensils:
	+ used only for the purpose for which they are designed
	+ inspected before use and replaced as required
	+ not left in work areas
	+ not left where they may be a trip hazard or interfere with other work in progress
	+ never carried in apron pockets or belts unless the point or edge is protected

**Avoiding burns:**

* Use caution when removing lids from pots. Slightly raise the edge of the lid furthest away from the body first to allow steam to escape before removing the lid
* Have a place ready to move hot cooking pans before removing them from the stove
* Place hot cooking pans on dry potholders
* Boiling liquids should not be poured into glass jars
* Pot handles should not extend into passage area around stoves or worktables

**Avoiding cuts:**

* Sharp knives or glass objects should not be placed in sinks
* When using a knife:
	+ use sharp knives carefully
	+ store them in the space provided when not in use
	+ keep sharp to reduce force when cutting
	+ cut away from the body
* Handle opened cans with care, never open cans with a knife
* Cracked dishes should be discarded
* Broken glass should be disposed of properly
* Proper PPE must be used when cleaning or dismantling a slicer
* Food slicers should never be used with the blade guards off or disengaged
* Never place hands or any utensil in a food mixer while it is operating

**Maintenance operations:**

**Portable power tools:**

* Do not operate power tools without proper instruction and authorization
* Safeguards should be inspected before use (e.g., grinder guards, string trimmer guards)
* Power tools should be inspected and tested by qualified personnel
* Always report defects or minor shocks from any piece of equipment
* Do not use electrical equipment or cords without an intact ground prong
* Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) must be used in all wet locations
* Electrical cords should:
	+ - be protected from damage by oil or wear
		- not be left where they may be a trip hazard or run over by trucks or other equipment
		- never be run through a doorway

**Hand tools:**

1. Hand tools are to be used only for the purpose for which they are designed. Tools will be inspected before use and replaced as required.
2. Tools with burrs, cracks, mushroom heads or broken, lose splintered handles shall not be used.
3. Do not leave tools on overhead work areas where they pose a risk of falling and striking someone.
4. Never leave tools where they may be tripped over or interfere with other work in progress.
5. Do not carry edged or pointed tools in pockets or belts unless the point or edge is protected.

**Motor vehicle operation:**

Because of the high risks associated with motor vehicle operation, the facility has implemented the following requirements:

1. All employees who operate vehicles for this facility must have a valid Oklahoma driver’s license, operator, commercial or chauffeur’s license as required for the equipment being operated.
2. Only **(Insert company name)** employees are permitted to operate school owned equipment/vehicles.
3. Employees are required to obey all Oklahoma traffic regulations. Cost for violations of traffic laws are the responsibility of the employee. Employees convicted of two or more moving violations within a 12-month period will not be allowed to operate school vehicles.
4. Employees must report all vehicle accidents as required by city and state accident reporting procedures. Employees involved in vehicle collisions will report the incident to their supervisor or designee immediately after contacting the local law enforcement agency.

Additional requirements involving motor vehicle operations are included in the *School Driver Program.*

**Safety Policy/Procedure acknowledgment**

By my signature below, I acknowledge I have received and read the Company's Safety Policy/Procedures, and I have been given an adequate opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification of any area of the policy/procedures. I agree to abide by the provisions outlined in the Safety Policy/Procedure and understand that failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of my employment.

I have received training by the company for the duties associated with my job, and I understand the potential hazards and physical requirements of these duties as well as the necessary precautions to control these hazards.

I have been informed and understand I am to report to my supervisor any incident and injury occurring while performing the duties of my job, or if in their absence, the next available senior company representative. An Incident Investigation Report must be completed and signed immediately, as is reasonable under the injury circumstances, by me after my injury.

I have been informed and understand I am to immediately report any unsafe acts and/or conditions discovered during the performance of my job duties.

Employee's signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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