

Safety Scouts at Nära Nurseries

Our Safety Scout enrichment activities are designed to teach young children the importance of health and safety in a fun and engaging way. By using simple, age-appropriate activities and visuals, children will learn key safety concepts that will help them stay safe both in the nursery, home and community environments.

By being Safety Scouts, our children are empowered to recognise safety hazards and be equipped with essential skills to stay safe in various environments. By fostering a culture of safety early on, we are helping to shape a generation of responsible, aware, and confident children.



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The aim of the Safety Scout enrichment is to develop a range of activities and experiences for children which:

- Promote hygiene awareness - Children understand the importance of personal hygiene practices, such as handwashing, brushing teeth, and keeping clean.
- Introduce safety practices - Children are introduced to basic safety concepts, including safe behaviours indoors and outdoors, helping them understand the importance of being safe in different environments.
- Foster risk awareness - Children identify simple risks in their everyday surroundings, such as potential hazards in the garden or rooms. They are empowered to take simple precautions to stay safe.
- Develop healthy habits – Children are encouraged to develop healthy, safe habits that will carry over into their daily lives, promoting long-term well-being and a sense of responsibility.
- Create a positive learning environment – Children engage in positive, hands-on learning experiences that encourage active participation and build children's confidence in making decisions related to their health and safety.
- Promote emotional and social development – A sense of responsibility and community is fostered through teaching children how looking out for their own safety and well-being also benefits those around them.



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Leading the way is Tidy Ted, our friendly Safety Scout mascot! Each week, Tidy Ted will introduce a new safety activity to help children learn important lessons about topics such as road safety, hygiene, tidying up, and looking after themselves and others.



As part of the program, Tidy Ted will also have the opportunity to go home with a different child each weekend. This is a wonderful way for children to build a connection with Tidy Ted and reflect on their own experiences with safety. While Tidy Ted is visiting, we invite families to document their time with your child in his Safety Scout Journal. This can be done in any way families like - writing a short entry, drawing pictures, sticking in photos, or adding small mementoes from their adventures together.

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Clean & Tidy Kit

Tidy Ted's toolkit includes:

- children's sweeping brushes
- set of trugs or baskets
- set of marble bowls
- set of dishcloths
- mop and bucket
- sprayers
- photographs to provide visual clues of how to use the resources
- clipboards, graph paper and pencils
- laminated children's cleaning schedule
- Hi-vis jackets
- books, including 'Maisy Cleans Up' by Lucy Cousins and 'Monster Mess' by Margery Cuyler
- Journal

All aspects of the routine and environment are utilised to optimise opportunities for personal growth and independence, such as finding equipment and materials needed for a task. For example, the sweeping brushes are accessible to the children, and at the end of an energetic session in the sand tray, children can use the brushes to sweep any sand that may have fallen on the floor.

Our educators use key times in the routine to provide worthwhile real-life experiences. For example, as the session draws to a close, children are encouraged to fill the marble bowls with water and wash their work areas using the cloths. This provides both a physical and mental challenge, as the children must consider how much water will be needed to fill the bowl, and which cloths to use, whilst persevering with problems encountered when cleaning.

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Clipboards, graph paper and pencils also offer children opportunities for 'checking' and communicating their thinking, supporting mathematical literacy. The laminated children's cleaning checklist also helps children realise that print carries meaning and helps them organise tasks such as filling the sprayers with water to hose and spray down the art easel.

When the clean & tidy toolkit is first introduced to the children, our educators role model and demonstrate how to use the resources, using photographs as prompts for thinking. The children learn basic skills by watching others, including both adults and their peers. They are then able to apply and practise these skills in real life contexts which helps to gain mastery.

Small group times are used to look at the collection of resources in the toolkit. The Tidy Ted character, stories and books are also shared to stimulate talking and new ideas. Clipboards, paper and pencils are offered to the children to provide opportunities for them to make visual marks and representations (graphics) and communicate their thinking.

Daily checklists

We have both an indoor and outdoor learning environment Safety Scout checklist which encourages children to take responsibility for their own safety by helping them identify potential hazards before they start playing.

Up to 4 safety scouts are selected each day, and wear hi-vis jackets to identify them, and are tasked with completing the indoor and outdoor checklists each day.

This gives the children the confidence to spot any issues and inform an adult right away. By actively engaging in this process, the children will learn how to assess hazards, think critically, and come up with practical solutions to ensure their own safety and the safety of those around them.

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This initiative supports the development of key life skills such as

- **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** By actively identifying risks, children will use their thinking skills to assess the severity of hazards and explore ways to mitigate them. They will learn how to make decisions based on their observations.
- **Responsibility and Independence:** As Safety Scouts, children will take ownership of their environment, learning how to care for it and keep it safe. This fosters a sense of responsibility and independence in their everyday actions.
- **Awareness and Risk Management:** Understanding and managing risks at a young age builds awareness of their surroundings. Children will start to recognize potential hazards and understand the importance of making safe choices, not just for themselves but also for others.

By embedding safety awareness into daily routines, this activity lays the foundation for lifelong safety habits and empowers children to take an active role in their own well-being.

Safety Scout weekly activities

Our weekly adult-led Safety Scout activities are designed to help children explore important knowledge and skills related to health, safety, and hygiene in ways that are appropriate for their developmental stage.

Each week, children will engage in hands-on, educator-led activities that provide them with the opportunity to learn about important safety practices. These activities may be inspired by one of our Safety Scout Activity Cards or developed from observations of the children's current interests and needs. This flexible approach allows us to tailor learning experiences to what is most relevant and engaging for the children at any given time.

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These adult-led activities will focus on key safety topics, such as:

- **Personal Safety:** Learning about staying safe in different environments, recognising dangers, and understanding personal boundaries.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Activities will help children understand the importance of hygiene practices like handwashing, brushing teeth, and cleaning up after themselves.
- **Emergency Awareness:** Through role-playing and discussions, children will become familiar with safety procedures, like knowing what to do in case of an emergency or how to get help from an adult.

By participating in these activities, children will develop a deeper understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe while also fostering a sense of responsibility. These experiences not only teach valuable safety skills but also encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and cooperation with peers and adults.

The Safety Scout weekly activities are paused during the summer term while the Big School Adventure programme is implemented.

Home learning

We encourage parents to continue these discussions at home and reinforce the concepts explored. Working together, we can create a safer environment for our children to learn and grow.

Families are supported to continue this learning at home by providing playful and fun ideas that you can use at home to support your child's learning. These home-based activities will help reinforce the safety, health, and hygiene concepts we explore at nursery, making learning both enjoyable and practical for your child.