Adverse/Severe Weather Policy

The safety of the children and staff is the prime consideration in relation to any decision to close Little Steps Day Care due to severe weather conditions. All attempts will be made to avoid closure.

- Firstly it is vital that Emergency Contacts for families are kept up to date, so that in the event of a child having to be sent home for any reason, this can be done easily. Please update yours immediately following any change in your circumstances.

- If heavy snow impacts on the ability for the nursery to operate we will put a notice on our Famly App by 7:30am on the day in question. Due to the sheer volume of families needing to be contacted, it is not possible for the management team to contact all parents/carers individually. It is therefore Parent's/Carer's responsibility to check if the setting will be open. Little Steps Day Care Ltd cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience caused by a decision to close due to adverse weather and unsafe conditions; safety is our number one priority.

- Several staff members may have difficulty coming to work due to adverse weather conditions which would affect our staffing ratios and the legal amount of children allowed to attend. The Manager will monitor the staff / pupil ratio in each area of the nursery and assess the situation. Staff members not contracted to work will be contacted to help cover those who are unable to safely travel to the site, however if ratios are unable to be met, the Management Team may be forced to close the setting as the children's safety would be compromised.

- The site will be risk assessed and a judgement will be made by the Management Team as to the safety of the site and surrounding roads. If the site or surrounding roads are deemed unsafe, the Management Team will make the decision to close. This is to ensure the safety of our families and staff and to avoid putting them in any unnecessary risk. The Management team will also check the situation of surrounding schools, in the process of risk assessing the setting's safety, and if Renhold VC Primary School or Ravensden CE Primary Academy are closed due to unsafe road conditions, we will be forced to do the same.

- If high snow fall is threatened during a nursery day the Nursery Manager, or in their absence the Deputy Manager, will take the decision as to whether to close the nursery. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the nursery day, a message will be put on our Famly App as soon as the decision is made, we will then begin contacting all parents to arrange for collection of their child.

- Please bear in mind that the nursery day may finish earlier as weather can become worse as temperatures drop towards the evening and you will be told of this when you drop your children off where possible.

- Days in which the nursery has been forced to close, due to circumstances outside of our control, are non-refundable.

Reviewed 30/01/2025