**12: Physical Environment**

Willows are committed to providing children with a stimulating and safe environment. We will do all we can to make all of our settings welcoming and friendly to children, their parents/carers and any other visitors.

The settings are all safe, secure and adequately spacious for their purpose. The atmosphere and environment of the settings are welcoming and offer access to the necessary facilities.

Willows are committed to taking every step to ensure all children have access to facilities, activities and play opportunities, including children with special needs or disabilities.

Willows comply with all the requirements of the Disability Discrimination At 2005 and 1995 and all other relevant regulations and guidance.

The manager of Willows is responsible for ensuring that the premises are clean, well lit with daylight as the main source of light, adequately ventilated and maintained at an appropriate temperature.

Daily Risk Assessments are carried out in accordance with the **Risk Assessment Policy**, to ensure that the facilities are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration.

Willows will do all it can to maintain an open room layout, allowing children to choose from a variety of play opportunities, move with ease from one activity to another and have equal opportunity to access all play opportunities and environments.

Willows will ensure there is space made for children who wish to relax or play quietly, there will also be an area where staff may talk to parents/carers confidentially.

Twice weekly cleaning by a professional agency employed by the landlord.

**Outdoor Play**

Any outdoor play will take place in safe, secure and well-supervised spaces.

Outdoor play areas will be well maintained and free from holes, bumps or uneven surface areas when possible.

Any outside water features will be kept safe and inaccessible to unsupervised children.

In the event of snow or ice on external walkways, staff will ensure this is regularly cleared and kept safe.

During hot weather, staff will ensure children are adequately protected from the sun, in accordance with the provisions set out in the **Health, Illness & Emergency Policy.**