

Dangerous Plants Policy

Kids2Day Pre-School recognises that many plants are poisonous if eaten or capable of causing allergic reactions if handled. Accordingly, no plants on the list of the dangerous plants shown below are allowed on the premises without first conducting a risk assessment to review the degree of risk posed to the children.

Children are much more likely to encounter the following rather than many of the plants listed at the bottom of this policy:

- mushrooms
- fungi
- berries
- seeds
- acorns
- conkers

Staff will inspect the outdoor area for the presence of wild mushrooms, fungi, berries and seed pods. These will be removed where possible before children access the area and staff will remain vigilant while accessing the outdoor area with the children.

The outside play area at the Pre-School has also been checked for the dangerous plants listed below. Where a potentially dangerous plant exists and we are unable to remove it, we have conducted a risk assessment which takes into account:

- the ages and maturity of the children
- the degree of supervision required
- whether we need to restrict access to affected areas
- how children with allergies might be affected.

Children's known allergies or sensitivities to plants, pollen or sap will be considered when planning activities and supervising outdoor play.

Risk assessments for outings include consideration of poisonous plants, berries, fungi and trees that children may encounter.

The following is a list of the most commonly found plants that staff should be aware of as posing a possible hazard. Note that this list is *not* fully comprehensive and therefore, staff should treat any unidentified plant, berry or fungus as potentially hazardous until its safety has been confirmed.

Common name	Latin name	Harmful
-------------	------------	---------

<i>Indoor Plants</i>		
Angels' Trumpets	(Brugmansia or Datura)	E
German Primula	(Primula Obconica)	T
Lantana	(Lantana)	E / T
Leopard Lily	(Dieffenbachia)	E / T
Oleander	(Nerium Oleander)	E
Rosy Periwinkle	(Catharanthus Roseus)	E
Umbrella Tree	(Schefflera)	T
Bulbs eg Daffodils & Hyacinths	(Narcissus) (Hyacinthus)	E / T
Cut flowers eg Daffodils, Monkshood, Mistletoe	(Narcissus) (Aconitum) (Viscum Album)	E / T
<i>Garden Plants</i>		
Autumn Crocus	(Colchicum Autumnale)	E
Castor Oil Plant	(Ricinus Communis)	E / T
Foxglove	(Digitalis Purpurea)	E
Freemontodendron	(Fremontodendron)	T
Ivy	(Hedera Helix)	E / T
Laburnum	(Laburnum Anagyroides)	E
Leyland Cypress	(X Cupressocyparis)	T
Lily-of-the-Valley	(Convallaria Majalis)	E
Lupins	(Lupinus)	E
Mezereon	(Daphne Mezereum)	E / T
Monkshood	(Aconitum Napellus)	E / T
Pokeweed	(Phytolacca)	E / T
Rue	(Ruta Graveolens)	T
Spurge	(Euphorbia)	E / T
Yew	(Taxus Baccata)	E
<i>Wild and native plants</i>		
Black Bryony	(Tamus Communis)	E
Black Nightshade	(Solamum Nigrum)	E
Cherry Laurel	(Prunus Laurocerasus)	E
Deadly Nightshade	(Atropa Belladonna)	E
Giant Hogweed	(Heracleum Mantegazzianum)	T
Hemlock	(Conium Maculatum)	E
Hemlock Water Dropwort	(Oenanthe Crocata)	E

Horse Chestnut	(Aesculus Hippocastanum)	E
Lords-and-Ladies	(Arum Maculatum)	E
Mistletoe	(Viscum Album)	E
Snowberry	(Symphoricarpos Albus)	E
Wild Privet	(Ligustrum Vulgare)	E
Woody Nightshade	(Solanum Dulcamara)	E

Key: E = Harmful if eaten, T = Harmful if touched

If a child is suspected of ingesting a poisonous plant or comes into contact with a harmful plant:

- First aid will be administered as appropriate.
- The plant will be identified where possible.
- Medical advice will be sought immediately through NHS 111 or emergency services where appropriate.
- Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible.
- The incident will be recorded in accordance with the Accident and Incident Policy.

Gardening Activities

We encourage children to engage in supervised gardening activities as part of their learning and exploration of the natural environment. Only child safe, non-toxic plants will be used for these activities. Educators will supervise children at all times when handling soil, plants or gardening equipment and will ensure appropriate hygiene practices, including thorough handwashing, are followed after each activity.

This policy was adopted by: Kids2day Pre-School	Date: 04.08.2025
To be reviewed: August 27	Signed:

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2026): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: safety of premises [3.80-3.81], outdoors access [3.85], safety on outings [3.91-3.92], risk assessment [3.93]*