

Safeguarding Children

Uncollected Child

Policy statement

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session the pre-school puts into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely by an experienced and qualified practitioner who is known to the child. We will ensure that the child receives a high standard of care in order to cause as little distress as possible.

We inform parents/carers of our procedures so that, if they are unavoidably delayed, they will be reassured that their children will be properly cared for.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe 1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as partners	3.4 The wider context	

This Policy was adopted at a meeting of Wellow Under Fives Preschool

Held On	6 th December 2011
Date to be reviewed	December 2012
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Name of signatory	Rob Blakemore
Role of signatory	Chairperson

Procedures

- Parents of children starting at the setting are asked to provide the following specific information which is recorded on our *Registration Form*:
 - Home address and telephone number - if the parents do not have a telephone, an alternative number must be given, perhaps a neighbour or close relative.
 - Place of work, address and telephone number (if applicable).
 - Mobile telephone number (if applicable).
 - Names, addresses, telephone numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder or grandparent. Any time these nominated persons come to collect the child they are asked to bring photo ID to verify their identity.
 - Who has parental responsibility for the child.
 - Information about any person who does not have legal access to the child.
- On occasions when parents are aware that they will not be at home or in their usual place of work, they inform us in writing of how they can be contacted.
- On occasions when parents or the persons normally authorised to collect the child are not able to collect the child, they provide us with written details of the name, address and telephone number of the person who will be collecting their child. We agree with parents how to verify the identity of the person who is to collect their child.
- Parents are informed that if they are not able to collect the child as planned, they must inform us so that we can begin to take back-up measures. We provide parents with our contact telephone number.
- In the event of an emergency and an additional person is required to collect the child who is not on the list we ask the parent to call the pre-school, we will then call them back to the approved telephone number the parent can then inform the Manager who is going to collect the child in this emergency. The new nominated person will be required to bring photo ID with them so they can verify their identity, before the child leaves the premises.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures as set out in our child protection policy, in the event that their children are not collected from setting by an authorised adult within one hour after the setting has closed and the staff can no longer supervise the child on our premises.
- If a child is not collected at the end of the session we follow the following procedures:
 - The child's file is checked for any information about changes to the normal collection routines.
 - If no information is available, parents/carers are contacted at home or at work.
 - If this is unsuccessful, the adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting - and whose telephone numbers are recorded on the Registration Form - are contacted.
 - All reasonable attempts are made to contact the parents or nominated carers.
 - The child does not leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form or in their file.
 - If no-one collects the child after one hour and there is no-one who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children.
 - We contact our local authority children's social services care team: 0845 6035620
 - The child stays at setting in the care of two fully-vetted workers until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a social care worker.
 - Social Care will aim to find the parent or relative if they are unable to do so, the child will become looked after by the local authority.

- Under no circumstances should staff go to look for the parent, or take the child home with them.
- A full written report of the incident is recorded in the child's file.
- Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff.
- Ofsted may be informed: 0300 123 1231
- Our local Pre-school Learning Alliance office/Pre-school Development Worker may also be informed. Kim Harris: 07554 450503 , or 0845 373 0645

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Child Protection Record (2007)