

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

Providers must have and implement a policy and procedures to safeguard children



1.4 Uncollected child

Policy statement

If a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session/day, we put into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely by an experienced and qualified practitioner who is known to the child. The child will receive 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.

Procedures

- Parents of children starting at the setting are asked to provide the following 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 and signatures of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder or grandparent.
 - 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. We only allow an adult other than the adult notified on a child's registration form to collect a child if the collection book is completed.
- 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.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures if their children are not collected by an authorised adult within one hour of the child's session ending (if applicable) or 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/day, we follow the procedures below:
 - Check the child's file and collection book for 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 the setting has closed 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 care team: 0845 050 7666 Social & Healthcare Team

For full day care, this will be the out-of-hours duty officer:

0800 833408 (Freephone)

- The child stays at the 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 will staff go to look for the parent, nor do they 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 additional hours worked by our staff. If a child is collected more than 10 minutes late from Pre-School, without explanation or warning to the staff, the late collection will be recorded and the parents will be invoiced £10 for every late collection to cover the cost of staffing necessary to care for the child who has been left at pre-school.
- Ofsted may be informed: General Helpline: 0300 123 1231
- Our local Pre-school Learning Alliance office/Development Worker may also be informed
West Division: 0121 643 0063

Policy approved and adopted by LWPS Board of Trustees on 17 October 2016	
Signed on behalf of the provider	<i>Jaw</i> Co-Chair
Name of signatory	Jenny Caw
Reviewed February	Signed: <i>Jaw</i> Dated: 20 Feb 2017
Reviewed June 2018	Signed: Dated:
Role and name of signatory	Catherine Harrison Chair