



Uncollected child

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session/day, the setting puts into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely at the play school by an experienced and qualified practitioner who is known to the child plus one other staff member. 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.

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 and telephone numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder or grandparent.

- 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 in the child registration pack 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 normally use a password. 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 if required, normally none are required however if the collector is late after play school is closed we deem it reasonable the parent pay the full hourly rate of staff required to stay on after work. We provide parents with our contact telephone number.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures as set out in our child protection policy (**Safeguarding**) 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/day, we follow the following procedures:
 - The child's personal folder 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 the emergency information book.

- 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 the Multi Agency Referral Unit
0300 1231 116
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For full day care, this will be the out of hours duty officer:

Out of hours officer 01208 251300

- 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 do 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 and is signed by the parent at the earliest opportunity
- Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff. Ofsted may be informed if the non collection is deemed to be a significant occurrence:

OFSTED 0300 123 1231

This policy was adopted at a meeting of _____

Held on _____

Date to be reviewed _____

Chairperson _____

