

1.5 Uncollected Child

Policy statement

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult by their expected collection time, we put into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely by experienced and qualified practitioners who are 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.

Procedure

- Parents are asked to provide the following specific information when their child starts attending our setting, 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, telephone numbers and passwords to be used if any 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 and telephone number of the person who will be collecting their child. We agree with parents a password 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. Our contact telephone number is 01223 830459.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures as set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy in the event that their children are not collected from setting by an authorised adult within 15 minutes after the setting has closed, and the staff can no longer supervise the child on our premises.
- If a child is not collected within 15 minutes of their expected collection time, we follow the procedures below:
 - The child's file is checked for any information about changes to the normal collection routines, and all staff questioned about any messages which may have been received, but not passed on.
 - 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 - and whose telephone numbers are recorded on the Registration Form - are contacted.
 - All reasonable attempts are made to contact the parents or nominated carers, and repeated attempts will be made.

- 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 within 30 minutes of their expected collection time and there is no-one who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children:
 - We contact the local authority children’s social care team:
 - 0345 045 5203
 - Or the out of hours duty officer (where applicable):
 - 01733 234724
 - If the children’s social care team is unavailable, or as our local authority advise, we will contact the local police.
 - After an additional 15 minutes if the child has not been collected, we will contact the above statutory agencies again.
 - The child stays at the setting in the care of two of our 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 we go to look for the parent, nor leave the setting premises with the child.
 - We ensure that the child is not anxious, and we do not discuss our concerns in front of 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.
- Ofsted may be informed on 0300 123 1231

Version	Changes Made	Author	Date	Review Date
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