



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 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. The child will stay 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 worker.

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. As detailed in the registration forms parents will be charged an extra £5 per 15 minutes' late collection fee.

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 (Mobile and work) – if the parents do not have a telephone, an alternative number must be given, perhaps a neighbour or close relative.
- 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.
- A password for use in the event of an unknown adult collecting.
- 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 via Family how they can be contacted or let the room leader know that morning.
- On occasions when parents or the persons normally authorised to collect the child are not able to collect the child, they provide us with details of the name 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 as soon as they are aware, 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 as set out in our safeguarding 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/day, we follow the following procedures: Parents/carers are contacted, If this is unsuccessful, emergency contacts on the child's family account are contacted and then the parents again.
- The child does not leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form or on the collection forms.
- If no-one collects the child after half an 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 03001231116 (out of hours 01208 251300)
- 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. We will also seek parental signature on an incident form 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:

Reviewed 28th September 2023

Signed By: Nursery Manager