

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

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

52. Lost child - from within nursery



Policy statement

Children's safety is our highest priority, both on and off the premises. Every attempt is made, through the implementation of our outings procedure and our exit/entrance procedure, to ensure the security of children is maintained at all times. In the unlikely event of a child going missing, our missing child procedure is followed.

Procedures

Child going missing on the premises

In the unlikely event of a child going missing within/from the nursery, we have the following procedure, which will be implemented immediately:

- All staff will be aware of the procedure when a child goes missing and supply information to support the search, e.g. a recent photograph and a detailed description of clothing
- The nursery manager will be informed immediately and all staff present will be informed via our walkie talkies and/or VOIP system. To avoid panic the code will be the full names of all management "Jessica Surman, Sharon Burrows and Caron Humphris to [Room name/area] immediately"
- Some staff will be deployed to start an immediate thorough search of the nursery, followed by a search of the surrounding area, whilst ensuring that some staff remain with the other children so they remain supervised, calm and supported throughout
- The manager will call the police as soon as they believe the child is missing and follow police guidance. The parents/carers of the missing child will also be contacted
- A second search of the area will be carried out

- During this period, available staff will be continually searching for the missing child, whilst other staff maintain as near to normal routine as possible for the rest of the children in the nursery
- The manager will meet the police and parents
- The manager will then await instructions from the police
- In the unlikely event that the child is not found, the nursery will follow the local authority and police procedure
- Any incidents must be recorded in writing as soon as practicably possible including the outcome, who was lost, time identified, notification to police and findings
- Ofsted will be contacted and informed of the incidents
- With incidents of this nature parents, carers, children and staff may require support and reassurance following the traumatic experience. Management will provide this or seek further support where necessary
- In any cases with media attention staff will not speak to any media representatives
- Post-incident risk assessments will be conducted following any incident of this nature to reduce the chance of this happening again.

This policy was adopted by

Ridgemount Cottage Nursery Ltd

On

June 2023

Date to be reviewed

June 2024

Signed on behalf of the provider

Stewart Hendry

Name of signatory

Stewart Hendry

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Director