

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Staff: Child ratios**

Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety

### **5.1 Staffing**

#### **Policy statement**

We provide a staffing ratio in line with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that children have sufficient individual attention and to guarantee care and education of a high quality. Our staff are appropriately qualified and we carry out checks for criminal and other records through the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with statutory requirements.

#### **Procedures**

To meet this aim we use the following ratios of adult to children:

- Children aged two years: 1 adult : 4 children:
  - at least one member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification; and
  - at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.
- Children aged three years and over: 1 adult : 8 children:
  - at least one member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification; and
  - at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.
- The number of children for each key person takes into account the individual needs of the children and the capacity of the individual key person to manage their cohort.
- We only include those aged 17 years or older within our ratios. Where they are competent and responsible, we may include students on long-term placements and regular volunteers.
- A minimum of two staff/adults are on duty at any one time; one of whom is either our manager or deputy. In the event of our Senior Practitioner Carolyn Fielder, and our Deputy Practitioner Belinda Vincent not being on site. The committee have agreed that a suitable level 3 member of staff, with at least 3 years' experience, will be acting Second Deputy Practitioner on their behalf.
- Our manager deploys our staff, students and volunteers to give adequate supervision of indoor and outdoor areas, ensuring that children are always within sight or hearing of staff at all times.
- All staff are deployed according to the needs of the setting and the children attending.
- Our staff, students and volunteers inform their colleagues if they have to leave their area and tell colleagues where they are going.
- Our staff, students and volunteers focus their attention on children at all times and any conversations with colleagues will be work related and only had when necessary, but not to the detriment of the children.
- We assign each child a key person to help the child become familiar with the setting from the outset and to ensure that each child has a named member of staff with whom to form a relationship. The key person plans with parents for the child's well-being and development in the setting. The key person meets

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regularly with the family for discussion and consultation on their child's progress and offers support in guiding their development at home.

- We hold regular staff meetings to undertake curriculum planning and to discuss children's progress, their achievements and any difficulties that may arise from time to time.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ *(name of provider)*

Held on \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*

Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_

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

Policy amended on, Date 03 March 2017

This amended policy was adopted at the committee meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on behalf of the provider \_\_\_\_\_

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

- Employee Handbook (2012)
- Recruiting and Managing Employees (2011)