

2.1 Employment and Staffing

(Including suitability, contingency plans, recruitment, training and development)

Policy statement

We meet the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, ensuring that our staff are appropriately qualified, and we carry out checks for criminal and other records through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in accordance with statutory requirements.

Procedures

Vetting and staff selection

- We work towards offering equality of opportunity by using non-discriminatory procedures for staff recruitment and selection.
- All staff have job descriptions, which set out their staff roles and responsibilities.
- We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex, age, marriage or civil partnership. Applicants will not be placed at a disadvantage by our imposing conditions or requirements that are not justifiable.
- We use Ofsted guidance on obtaining references and enhanced criminal record checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service for staff and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to children.
- We keep all records relating to employment of staff and volunteers, in particular those demonstrating that checks have been done, including the date/number of the enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.
- Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children – whether received before, or at any time during, their employment with us.

Disqualification

- Where we become aware of any relevant information which may lead to the disqualification of an employee, we will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children. In the event of disqualification, that person's employment with us will be terminated.

Changes to staff

- We inform Ofsted of any changes in the person responsible for our setting.

Training and staff development

- Our setting leader and deputy hold at least the CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce or an equivalent qualification and a minimum of half of our staff hold the CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce or an equivalent or higher qualification.
- We provide regular in-service training to all staff - whether paid staff or volunteers - through internal and external agencies.
- Our setting budget allocates resources to training.

- We provide staff induction training in the first weeks of employment. This induction includes our Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy. Other policies and procedures will be introduced within an induction plan.
- We support the work of our staff by holding regular supervision meetings and appraisals.
- We are committed to recruiting, appointing and employing staff in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice.

Staff taking medication/other substances

- If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, we ensure that they seek further medical advice. Staff will only work directly with the children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.
- Staff medication on the premises will be stored securely and kept out of reach of the children at all times.
- If we have reason to believe that a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children, they will not be allowed to work directly with the children and further action will be taken.

Staffing

- A minimum of two staff are on duty at any one time one of whom is level 3 qualified or higher.
- 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.
- Ratios are managed as follows:
Under 3s: 1 Adult : 4 Children
Over 3s: 1 Adult : 8 Children

Managing staff absences and contingency plans for emergencies

- As a term time only setting, our staff take their main holiday breaks when the setting is closed. Where staff may need to take time off for any reason other than sick leave or training, this is agreed with the manager with sufficient notice.
- Sick leave is monitored and action is taken where necessary, in accordance with the contract of employment.
- We have contingency plans to cover staff absences, as follows:

Staff not in attendance on the day of another colleague's absence will be contacted at the earliest possible convenience. Relief staff member would be contacted if necessary.

If the event that cover cannot be provided, Committee members would be contacted in an emergency/short term situation.