

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Suitable People

Providers must ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles.

2.1 Employment

(Including suitability, contingency plans, training and development)



Little 1 Nursery

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 Criminal Records Bureau 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 marital status, age, gender, culture, religious belief, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. 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. This is in accordance with requirements under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 for the vetting and barring scheme.
- We keep all records relating to employment of staff and volunteers, in particular those demonstrating that checks have been done, including the date and number of the enhanced DBS 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 Owner and Senior Managers both hold Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) (Level 6 Qualification) Staff qualifications can be found in each setting displayed on Staff tree or in Personnel Folder. Above minimum of half of our staff hold the NVQ 3 or an equivalent or higher qualification.

- We provide regular in-service training to all staff - whether paid staff or volunteers - through the Hampshire County Council, external agencies and online.
- Our setting budget allocates resources to training.
- We provide staff induction training in the first year 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. The induction lasts for the initial probationary period of 3 months.
- 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 must inform management of medication they are taking by completing medication form; reasons why, side effects etc. which will be kept in their personnel file.
- 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.

Managing staff absences and contingency plans for emergencies

- Our term time staff take their holiday breaks in the school holidays. 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.
- Managers and Senior Managers organise staff annual leave so that ratios are not compromised.
- Where staff are unwell and take sick leave in accordance with their contract of employment, we organise cover to ensure ratios are maintained.
- Sick leave is monitored and action is taken where necessary in accordance with their contract of employment.
- We have contingency plans to cover staff absences, as follows:

We over staff on a daily basis so we have built in flexibility, we also have part time and bank staff that can increase their hours as necessary.

Our Management team; Owner, 2 Senior Managers and Managers are all supernumerary and can cover in the rooms as needed.

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications 2.1

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