**1:4 Uncollected child**

# Policy statement

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.

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.

## 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 - if the parents do not have a telephone, an alternative number must be given, perhaps a neighbour or close relative.
* Place of work, address and telephone number (if applicable).
* Mobile telephone number (if applicable).
* Names, addresses and telephone numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a child-minder or grandparent.
* Who has parental responsibility for the child.
* 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 in writing of how they can be contacted.
* 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 that the password system must be used.
* Parents are informed that if they are not able to collect the child as planned, they must inform us 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 child protection policy in the event that a child/ren 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:
* The daily register & diary is checked for any information about changes to the normal collection routines.
* If no information is available, parents/carers are contacted at home or at work.
* If this is unsuccessful, the adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting - and whose telephone numbers are recorded on the Registration Form are contacted.
* All reasonable attempts are made to contact the parents or nominated carers.
* The child does not leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form or in their file.
* If no-one collects the child after 30 minutes and there is no named contact who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children.
* If we have any cause to believe the child has been abandoned, We contact our local authority children’s social services care team:

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| --- | --- |
| **0808 800 4005 -** | **Customer First** |

* If the children’s social care team is unavailable [or as our local authority advise] we will contact the local police]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 01473 613500 | *(name and phone number)* |

* Or the out of hours duty officer (where applicable):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *(name and phone number)* |

* After an additional 15 minutes if the child has not been collected, we will contact the above statutory agencies again.
* The child stays at setting in the care of two members of staff until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a social care worker, or by another person specified by social care.
* 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 to go to look for the parent, nor do they leave the setting with the child.
* A full written report of the incident is recorded in the child’s file.
* Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff.
* Ofsted may be informed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **0300 123 1231** | quote reg no **251575** |

* Our local Pre-school Learning Alliance office may also be informed.

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| **01449 677878** |  |

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | NBU5s Preschool | name of setting |
| Held on | June 6th 2023 | (date) |
| Date to be reviewed | June 6th 2024 | (date) |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee |  |
| Name of signatory | Marie Whiting |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) | Setting Lead |

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

* Safeguarding Children (2013)