

## **Uncollected child**

### **Policy statement**

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult by their expected collection time, we put into practice agreed procedures. The child will receive 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 are asked to provide the following specific information when their child starts attending our setting, 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 & contact numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder or grandparent.
  - Collection password to be used and procedure to be followed in the event that arrangements have been made for another adult to collect the child.
  - 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 written details of the name and contact telephone number of the person who will be collecting their child. We follow the *Collection by Another* procedure in these instances.
- 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. Our contact telephone number is [01932 866556].
- If a child is not collected at their expected collection time, we follow the procedures below:
  - The child's file & daily register 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 - 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 the collection by another diary.
- We will not let a child leave our care with any person under the age of 18, regardless of whether they have been named by the parent.
- We will not let a child leave with any person we suspect is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (regardless if it is a parent) and we would, in this case refer the incident to the children's social care team.
- If no-one collects the child within one hour of their expected collection time and there is no-one who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children.
- We contact the local authority children's social care team / contact centre:

0300 200 1006

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

01483 517898

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- The child stays at the setting in the care of two of our fully-vetted workers, one of whom will be a Supervisor until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a social care worker.
- 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 will we go to look for the parent, nor leave the setting premises with the child.
- We ensure that the child is not anxious and we do not discuss our concerns in front of them.
- 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.
- Ofsted may be informed:

0300 123 1231

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