



## **Starlings Preschool Uncollected Child Policy**

### **Policy statement**

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session/day, 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 record 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, telephone numbers and signatures 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 written details of the name, address and telephone number of the person who will be collecting their child. We agree with parents how to verify the identity of the person who is to collect their child.
- 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 in the event that their children are not collected 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 procedures below:
  - The child's file 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 within 30 minutes of their expected collection time and there is no name 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 the local authority children's social care team;

If the children's social care team is unavailable or as our local authority advise we will contact the local authority's children's social care team:

(name and phone number)

**Children's Social Care and/or Police**

Hants Direct: 0300 555 1384 (or 08456 035620)

Police – 101 (999 if an emergency)

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- After an additional 15 minutes if the child has not been collected we will contact the above statutory agencies again.
  - The child stays at the setting in the care of two fully-vetted workers, one of whom will be the manager or deputy manager until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a social care worker or 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 will staff go to look for the parent, nor leave the settings 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 on 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:

Telephone No: 0300 1234234

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- Our local Pre-school Learning Alliance office/Development Worker may also be informed.

(name and phone number)

Aileen Kellem : 02392 325612

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This policy was adopted at a meeting of Starlings Pre-school (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) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Safeguarding Children (2013)