



Contingency plan at PlayDay Nursery.

Aim

We meet the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements within Childcare Regulations, ensuring that adult to child ratios is met by employees that have been safely recruited, including an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. This is to ensure that children have sufficient individual attention and to guarantee care and education of a high quality.

To meet this aim, we follow:

Adult to child ratios of:

1:3 for children aged 2 years and under 2.

1:4 for children aged 2-3 years

We will not be following the New Government Guidelines of 1:5 for ages 2-3years unless this is a last resort to keep the nursery open allowing our families to continue to use our services.

1:8 for children aged 3 years and above

- There will always be a member of the leadership time on site.
- There will always be a Designated Safeguarding Lead on site or contactable at all times.
- A minimum of three staff are on duty at any one time, working directly with the children, however at the Milestone Centre it is a minimum of 2.
- Each room is overseen by a suitably qualified and experienced Room Leader/Supervisor/Senior.
- We use a key worker approach to ensure that each child has a named member of staff with whom to form a relationship and who plans with parents for the child's well-being and development within the nursery. We are committed to ensuring nearly all staff are qualified within Paediatric First aid and is refreshed on a year cycle.
- All staff will have Safeguarding Training relevant to their roles, that is renewed on a 3 year cycle.
- All employees (and volunteers) are recruited following the Safer Recruitment procedure, including enhanced DBS and identity checks, obtaining references and qualifications checked.
- All staff have up-to-date relevant job descriptions which sets out their roles and responsibilities within the nursery.
- All staff partake in regular supervisions, 1-2-1's and appraisals.

- The nurseries have a suitably recruited and qualified team of bank members to support and cover duties for staff on leave, whether that be holidays, illness, or training courses.
- Staff adhere to an agreed holiday policy, to ensure that the nurseries have a plentiful supply of support to cover as well as any last-minute shortages where these can-not be planned for in advance.
- The Nursery is routinely maintained and serviced according to the relevant legislations for Health & Safety.
- Where agency staff are used, the Nursery Manager must seek written confirmation from the recruitment agency, that all safer recruitment checks, including an enhanced DBS check has been performed on the candidate.

The Nursery Manager / Assistant Manager must have a copy of the DBS number and take a photocopy of the candidate's photographic identification on arrival to the nursery, to verify that the candidate is who they say they are. Whilst we endeavour to ensure that the nursery operates its full service to our families, we recognise that there may be times that are out of our control that may require us to follow our contingency procedures, such as:

- Staff absences at short notice in accordance with employment contracts
- Extreme weather conditions. The nursery will act as recommended by the MET Office as appropriate if there are severe warnings in place for flooding, storms, snow etc
- Issues isolated to the setting such as a fire/ flood that would make the nursery inhabitable for use
- Structural issues with the building, which can-not be addressed whilst the nursery is operational and require emergency repairs
- Services have been disconnected, i.e., there is no water or electricity or failure of heating –including if the temperature is below acceptable level for children in accordance with childcare regulations and Health & Safety regulations for working temperature for staff
- Acts of war/ terrorism
- In the event of a pandemic illness, we may have to close if advised by the government or if it is not safe to operate. Our risk assessments will determine this. (New policies and procedures will be put into place)
- Staff absences due to illnesses going around outbreaks.

Contingency Procedure

1. This procedure is to be followed in order or adapted to suit the requirements of the nursery, dependent on the need at the time, and to ensure as little as disruption to our families as possible. In the event of staff shortages. Staff and children will be asked to move around the nursery to always adhere to ratios, ensuring that there are sufficient staff available to look after the children's well-being.
2. Management will be used.
3. The staff that are part-time or are on planned annual leave will be asked for support and to come in.
4. If all the above points have been exhausted:
5. Both sites to be used to ratio capacity and parents offer Milestone/Hemdean where possible.

- a) Cancel children's sessions that have been booked as extras, outside of their contracted sessions.
- b) Only accept the number of children that is compliant according to the number of staff readily available and working. This will be done on a first come first served basis. (for this to happen we need a minimum of 3 staff per room – 2 of them have to be qualified.)

In the event of other issues:

- If there is a requirement to close the nursery suddenly during the operating day due to any of the other above listed reasons, staff will call and notify parents at the earliest convenience. Parents will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible, unfortunately this day's payment will not be re-imbursed.
- If we must close a room or an area of the nursery due to emergency maintenance, we will endeavour to accommodate children within other areas of the nursery which is suitable until such time their usual area can be re-opened. The Nursery Manager or Nursery Deputy Manager will take responsibility to ensure that parents are informed of these changes at the earliest convenience.
- If closure of rooms is required due to staffing issues, we will then re-imburse or give a day in lieu, this will be reflected in your invoice the month after due to invoices being paid in advance.
- In the event of a power cut – we will follow close down procedures if this
- If extreme weather conditions are anticipated and we expect that we may need to close the nursery, we will notify all families in advance or as soon as practicable. The reason for this closure will be to ensure the safety of the children and our staff team.
- The Nursery Manager and Deputy Manager will call or email all families to ensure they have advanced warning of possible closures.
- If we must close the whole nursery, it is a requirement that our local inspectorate must be notified however if it is just a room this is not a requirement.

This policy was adopted on
06/02/2024
Signed : S Norris