



Lost/Missing/Uncollected Child

The EYFS says:

3.2 Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well

3.73 details of the provider's policies and procedures in the event of a child going missing at, or away from, the setting

The care of your child is paramount and I will always try to ensure that they remain with us and are safe.

However sometimes children can become 'lost' in busy places and therefore as a responsible childminder I have a written procedure that will be followed in the unlikely event of this happening.

I ask parents to:

- Dress children in bright clothing if possible if I have informed you we are making an outing
- Encourage your children to hold your hand whilst out.

On an outing I will:

- Immediately raise the alarm to all around me that we have lost a child and enlist the help of everyone to look for them
- When in a secure area such as a shopping centre, we will quickly alert the security staff so they can seal off exits and monitor the situation on any CCTV
- Provide everyone involved in the search with a description of the child
- Reassure the other children with me, as they may be distressed
- Then alert the police and provide emergency services with a photo/detailed description of what a child is wearing
- Then alert the parents of the situation

If a child should become lost/missing inside the setting/garden we will:

- Speak loudly that any games are over and that children should no longer hide
- Call the police to advise that we have a missing child
- Provide emergency services with a photo/detailed description of what a child is wearing
- Call parents to advise a child is missing
- Reassure other children and contact other parents to arrange collection.

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- We take precautions to avoid situations like this happening by implementing the following measures:
- Ensuring the children hold my hand or the pushchair whilst we are out
- Avoid going to places that are overcrowded
- On outings the children wear Hi-vis jackets with the setting mobile number on them
- I teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and of talking to strangers
- Using age appropriate restraints

Children missing from provision

Following advice of the Safeguarding Children Board , the following procedure has been implemented in case of children being missing from provision:

I ask parents to:

- Inform me if you are going to be late or if your child is ill or not attending.
- When a child does not arrive and parents have not been in touch and they are more than 45 minutes late

I will:

- Call parents on all available numbers - if no contact I will leave messages and expect a response within an hour
- Then call emergency contacts - if no reply/response or whereabouts of child are unknown then

I will...

- Call other settings that your child is known to such as school/playgroup/nursery - if whereabouts unknown then we will...
- Call the local Safeguarding Children Board to advise there is a child missing from provision who may then advise to call the police and/or Social Care

Uncollected child

If a child is not collected within 30 mins of the agreed collection time I will try calling parents' contact numbers. Then I will try emergency contact numbers. During this time I will continue to safely look after the child.

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I will continue to try parents' contact numbers and emergency numbers, but if I have heard nothing after 2 hours from the original agreed collection time then I will inform the local Safeguarding Children Board and Ofsted.

I may charge an additional late collection fee.