

Uncollected child

Policy statement

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult by their expected collection time, Bunyan preschool 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.

Arriving late to collect

Procedures

In the event of a parent or carer arriving late to collect their child (i.e. after 12pm or 3pm), then we reserve the right

to charge a late fee, and the following procedures will be followed:

- Staff will record the time the parent or carer arrives to collect their child on our register;
- On the first occurrence of being late, the lateness will be recorded by the member of staff on 'door duty'
- Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked. The charge will apply 10 minutes after end of each session and it is a £10 for the first 10minutes and a £1 for every 1 minute after that.
- If a child has not been collected by an authorised person by 12.15pm or 3.15pm, and we have had no communication from the parent or carer to explain the circumstances of the delay, then we will apply our child protection procedure as outlined in the Uncollected Child Policy;
- Any late collection fees incurred require payment within 7 days of receipt of invoice.

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, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder 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.
- If a child is not collected at their expected collection time, Bunyan preschool 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 - 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 named contact who can be contacted to collect the child, Bunyan preschool will 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 police. 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 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 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.
- Ofsted may be informed
- The local Pre-school Learning Alliance office/Development Worker may also be informed