



Charitable Incorporated organisation No: 1206270

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09 Early years practice procedures

09.6 Prime times – arrivals and departures

Prime times of the day make the very best of routine opportunities to promote 'tuning-in' to the child emotionally and to create opportunities for learning. Arrivals and departures are key times in the day when children need support from their carer to make the transition smooth and happy; these times of day also pose a certain level of risk as parents and carers come and go. All staff are aware of the potential risks and take measures to minimise them.

Arrivals

- Whenever possible the key person or buddy key person greets the children, a member of management supervises the open gate for safety. This ensures that young children are received into the setting by a familiar and trusted adult.
- A member of staff who greets the children marks their presence and time of arrival in the register.
- If a child who is expected fails to arrive, this is recorded on the child's personal file and the setting manager is immediately notified so that they can contact the child's parents/carers to find out why the child is absent following procedure 09.2 Absence.
- The member of staff/ member of management greeting the child ensures that the child has been signed in and there is a clear indication of who will be collecting the child, and at the end of the session.
- The key person /member of management greets the parents/carers and takes time to hear information the parents/carers need to share or share information about the days events or any changes. They inform the parents/carers of aspects of the day, such as if their keyperson is absent, which members of staff will be around later when parents/carers collect their child, any planned outings, or special planned event. Any consent / home accidents forms are signed.
- The key person receives the child physically and tunes in to how he or she is feeling and prepares to meet his/her needs.
- If the member of staff receiving the child is not the key person, the member of staff will hand over the information shared by the parents/carers to the key person when they arrive.

Injuries noted on arrival

- If a child is noted to have visible injuries when they arrive at the setting procedure 6.1 is followed.

Changing shifts and handing over information

- If someone other than the key person receives the child, he/she will share any information from the parent/carer and write a note for the key person. Confidential information should be shared with the setting manager to pass on.
- The key person shares information with the back-up key person, in this way they ensure that all information is passed on to the parent/carer in the key person's absence.

Departures

- Children are prepared for home, with clean faces, hands and clothes if required.
- The key person always aims to greet parents/carers when taking the child out, ensuring that the person who has arrived to collect the child is named on the signing in/out form. They hand over the child personally the time of departure is marked in the register.
- Only persons aged over 16 years should normally collect children. If a parent has no alternative, then this is agreed with the setting manager and a risk assessment completed and signed by the parent/carer. In all cases the setting manager will ask the parents/carers to ensure that in future alternative arrangements are made. If the parent/carer is under 16 years of age a risk assessment will be completed. No child will be collected by anyone who has not reached 14 years of age. The risk assessment should take account of factors such as age/vulnerability of child, journey travelled, arrangements upon leaving the setting to go home/elsewhere.
- Educators verbally exchange information with parents/carers.
- If someone other than the key person is with the child at the end of the day, the key person should pass general information to the other staff or write a note for the parents/carers. Confidential information should be shared with the setting manager to pass on.

Maintaining children's safety and security

Arrivals and departures pose a particular threat to the safety and security of the children, particularly when parents arrive at the same time or when in shared premises. To minimise the risk of a child leaving the building unnoticed, the setting manager conducts a risk assessment that identifies potential risks and the measures put in place to minimise them, such as staff busy talking to individual parents/carers or doors left ajar. The risk assessment is shared with their line manager and is updated as and when required. View procedure 01.1 Risk assessment and 01.1a Generic risk assessment form for further guidance.