Park School and Little Crickets Supervision of Children in the EYFS Policy

Introduction

Under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, providers must ensure that children are supervised at all times and that their safety and well-being are paramount. The EYFS guidelines emphasise that effective supervision is crucial for safeguarding children and promoting their development.

Regulations state that children should always be in the sight or sound of a responsible adult. This is to ensure that children are protected from harm, that staff can respond quickly in case of an emergency, and that children are supported appropriately at all times.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the expectations and responsibilities for the supervision of children in the setting, ensuring that all children are kept safe, their needs are met, and they have a positive and enriching experience in line with the EYFS standards.

Aims of the Supervision of Children:

- To ensure that children are supervised by a qualified and responsible adult at all times.
- To promote a safe and nurturing environment that supports children's emotional, physical, and developmental needs.
- To comply with all regulatory and legal requirements to safeguard children and ensure their well-being.
- To provide children with appropriate levels of freedom and independence while maintaining supervision for safety.

Supervision Regulations

Sight and Sound

At all times, children must be in the sight or sound of a staff member. This ensures that staff can quickly respond to any situation that may arise, from accidents to emotional needs or behavioural challenges. **Whilst eating, children should be within sight and sound of a staff member.**

- **Sight:** Children should be visible to staff at all times, meaning staff can observe them directly, either in the same room or in an adjoining space with clear sightlines.
- **Sound:** If sight is not possible (e.g., in a large outdoor space or a room with no direct line of sight), children should remain within hearing range of staff, so that staff can respond immediately if necessary.

Ratios

Staff-child ratios must be adhered to at all times as outlined in the EYFS framework, with additional staff or support needed in high-risk activities or environments (e.g., swimming, outings).

Outdoor Supervision

When children are playing or learning outside, staff must maintain close supervision. Children must be within clear sight or sound of staff at all times. Where the outdoor area is large, staff should be deployed in a way that ensures all children can be seen or heard.

Supervision During Transitions

During transitions between activities, indoors to outdoors, or when children are moving from one space to another, staff must ensure that children are supervised, and no child is left unsupervised at any point.

During free-flow play, staff will be strategically positioned to ensure effective supervision across both indoor and outdoor environments while maintaining statutory ratios and ensuring all children remain within sight or hearing of an adult.

Group Supervision

When working with large groups of children, staff must be deployed to ensure that children are adequately supervised across the setting. Adults must remain vigilant to ensure that all children are safe and engaged.

Special Considerations

Children with additional needs

Extra attention should be given to children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). Supervision should be adjusted accordingly to ensure they are supported appropriately.

Sleep and Rest Times

Sleeping children will be monitored in accordance with the Little Cricket and Park School's Sleep Policy and safer sleep guidance. Staff will undertake and record regular checks, ensuring sleeping children remain visible or are monitored appropriately and that their welfare is maintained at all times.

Toileting

Children are encouraged to develop independence in toileting appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff remain aware of children's whereabouts at all times and provide support where required whilst maintaining children’s dignity and privacy.

Excursions and Outings

During trips or outings, children must be supervised closely with appropriate staff ratios and should remain within sight or sound at all times. Staff must be responsible for the health and safety of children during the trip, with regular headcounts and assessments of risks.

Handovers

Children remain under the responsibility of the setting until they are formally handed over to a parent, carer or authorised adult. Staff must follow the setting's Collection and Uncollected Child procedures at all times.

Responsibilities of Staff:

- Staff are responsible for ensuring children are supervised adequately and effectively, in line with above guidance.
- Staff must continuously monitor the children in their care, observing and responding to their needs, ensuring they remain safe, engaged, and supported.
- Staff should be aware of the setting’s layout and how to ensure effective sight and sound supervision in all areas (indoor and outdoor).

- Staff must use professional judgment to determine the appropriate level of supervision based on the children's age, development, activity, and any additional needs.
- Staff should ensure that children understand the expectations regarding safety and supervision.
- Staff are expected to carry out ongoing dynamic risk assessments throughout the day. Where risks are identified, staff must take immediate and proportionate action to reduce or remove the risk while maintaining appropriate supervision of all children.
- Staff must complete regular headcounts throughout the day, particularly during transitions, outdoor play, outings and emergency situations. Attendance registers must accurately reflect children's presence at all times

Supervision During Breaks or Lunch

Children should never be left unsupervised during lunch or breaks, whether indoors or outside. Adequate staff must be assigned to ensure that children are safe during these times.

Staff should monitor children's interactions, ensuring they are respectful and supportive of each other, and intervene when necessary to prevent any incidents.

Record Keeping

Attendance registers should be maintained at all times, recording which children are present, and ensuring that children are never left unsupervised.

Staff should keep a record of any incidents or concerns regarding supervision, including children not being in sight or sound when they should have been.

Training

All staff must be trained in safeguarding and child protection policies, including how to supervise children effectively and respond to any incidents of concern.

Supervision practices should be reviewed regularly in team meetings to ensure they are in line with current regulations and best practices.

Monitoring and compliance

The Nursery Manager and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for monitoring implementation of this policy through:

- Observations of practice.
- Staff supervision meetings.
- Safeguarding monitoring.
- Accident and incident reviews.
- Audits of registers and headcount procedures.

Any concerns regarding supervision arrangements will be addressed immediately through training, coaching or disciplinary procedures where appropriate.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or whenever there is a change in statutory guidance or regulations. Staff will be consulted about the effectiveness of the policy, and any areas for improvement will be addressed.

By following this policy, we ensure that children in our care are protected and supported, providing them with a safe, secure, and enriching environment in line with the EYFS framework.

Related Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Missing Child Policy
- Sleep Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy

Policy Owner: LM/RM
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