

08 Staff, assistants, volunteers and students procedures

08.2 Staff deployment

Members of staff, assistants, bank staff and students (where eligible to be counted in ratios) are deployed to meet the care and learning needs of children and to ensure their safety and well-being at all times.

- Two members of staff are on the premises before children are admitted in the morning and the end of the day; one of which will be the Manager or Deputy Manager.
- Only those staff aged 17 or over are included in ratios. Staff working as apprentices (aged 16 or over) may be included in the ratios if the Manager is satisfied that they are competent and responsible.
- At least one Paediatric First Aider is on site at all times when children are present.
- The Manager deploys staff to give adequate supervision of indoor and outdoor areas, ensuring that children are always within sight or hearing of staff. Whilst eating, children are within sight and hearing of a member of staff.
- All staff are deployed according to the needs of the setting and the children attending.
- Staff are positioned in areas of the room and outdoors to supervise children and to support their learning.
- Staff are responsible for ensuring that equipment in their area is used appropriately and that the area is tidy at the end of the session.
- Staff plan their focus on activities.
- Staff inform colleagues if they have to leave the room for any reason.
- There are generally two members of staff outside in the garden when it is being used, one of whom supervises climbing equipment that has been put out.
- The Manager will direct other members of staff to join those outside, if the numbers of children warrant additional staff.
- Staff focus their attention on the children at all times whilst having a wider awareness of what is happening around them.
- Staff do not spend working time in social conversation with colleagues.
- Staff allow time for colleagues to engage in 'sustained shared interaction' with children and do not interrupt activities led by colleagues.
- Sufficient staff are available at story times to engage children.
- Key persons spend time with key groups daily; these times are not for focussed activities but for promoting shared times and friendship.

Staff children

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- Where members of staff have their own children with them at the setting, the age of the child must fall within the stipulated ages of the setting's Ofsted registration.
- Where members of staff are likely to be working directly with their own children, this is subject to discussion before commencement with the Manager.
- Where it is agreed that a member of staff's child attends the setting, it is subject to the following:
 - the child is treated by the parent/carer and all staff as any other child would be
 - the child will not be in the parent's/carer's key group of children
 - the key person and parent/carer will work towards helping the child to make a comfortable separation from the parent/carer to allow the parent to fully undertake their role as a staff member of the setting
 - the key person will take responsibility for the child's needs throughout the day, unless the child is sick or severely distressed
 - the situation is reviewed as required, to ensure that the needs of the child are being met, and that the parent/carer is able to fulfil his/her role as a member of staff

If it is the Manager's child, then the Committee Chairperson ensures the criteria above is met