

Looked After Children

Policy Statement

At Harvey Bears Nursery and Pre-school we are committed to providing quality provision for all children and their families. We work together to ensure that looked after children reach their full potential.

Children are considered 'looked after' if they are in care, this includes foster homes., or living with a relative.

We recognize that 'looked after children' may have experienced trauma, including bereavement, physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect. We recognise there are many reasons children are taken into care and understand this leaves a disruption in their lives that has an impact on their wellbeing.

We place emphasis on a looked after child's right to be strong, resilient and listened to.

Through our keyworker system we aim to give children secure attachments, as the foundation for resilience.

Principles

- We never to refer to a child as a 'looked after child' to anyone outside the setting.
- We do not offer places to 'looked after children' under 2 unless recommended by the local authority.
- We point foster carers of children under 2 to stay and play sessions in the local area.
- We offer places to 'looked after children' who are funded, providing they have been with the foster carer for over a month and formed a bond with them.
- Where a child already with us is placed into care we continue to offer them a placement.

Procedures

- The keyworker for a 'looked after child' is normally the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Circumstances of the placement are not discussed between staff.
- The keyperson liaises with all outside agencies involved with the child, and the carer to ensure that we know all necessary information.
- The setting recognises the role of the local authority children's social care teams as the child's corporate parent.
- The setting agree to notify the child's social worker of any significant change in activities or relevant information.
- At the start of the placement an Educational Health and Care Plan is drawn up involving all relevant parties. This includes;
 - 1) The child's emotional needs and how they are to be met.
 - 2) How emotional needs and problems with behaviour are to be managed.
 - 3) How to encourage their sense of self, culture language and identity.
 - 4) Their need for sociability and friendships.
 - 5) Their interests, abilities and learning pathways.
 - 6) How any special educational needs and disabilities are to be supported.

In addition the educational health and care plan will include;

- 1) How information will be shared with the foster parents and local authority, and where it will be recorded and stored.
- 2) Who the child has contact with and what arrangements are in place for this contact.
- 3) What written reporting is required
- 4) What are the long term plans, if any, for the child to return home.
- 5) What contact the setting are allowed to have with the birth parents
- 6) Any adaptations to be made to the settling in process.
- 7) Observations should be carried out within the first 2 weeks to ensure the child has settled in.
- 8) Concerns to be expressed to the relevant party as soon as possible.
- 9) Any concerns about the foster parent's treatment of the child to be reported to the social worker immediately.