

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and Records

Providers must maintain records and obtain and share information to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to help ensure the needs of all children are met.



CHILDREN'S RECORDS POLICY

Statement of intent

There are record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; means of storing and sharing that information take place within the framework of the Data Protection Act (1998) and the Human Rights Act (1998).

This policy and procedure is taken in conjunction with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and our Information Sharing Policy.

Procedures

If a child attends another setting, we'll establish a regular two-way flow of appropriate information with parents and other providers. Where appropriate, we'll incorporate comments from other providers, as well as parents and carers into the child's records.

We keep two kinds of records on children attending our setting:

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the setting, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- These are usually kept in the playroom and can be freely accessed, and contributed to, by staff, the child and the child's parents.

Personal records

- These include registration and admission forms, signed consent forms, and correspondence concerning the child or family, reports or minutes from meetings concerning the child from other agencies, an ongoing record of relevant contact with parents, and observations by staff on any confidential matter involving the child, such as developmental concerns or child protection matters and summary developmental reports.
- These confidential records are stored in a lockable filing cabinet in the Rainbow room, which is always locked when not in use and are kept secure by the manager and staff.
- We'll read any correspondence in relation to a child, note any actions and file it immediately
- We'll ensure that access to children's files is restricted to those authorised to see them and make entries in them, this being our manager, the child's key person, or other staff as authorised by our manager.
- We may be required to hand children's personal files to Ofsted as part of an inspection or investigation process; or to local authority staff conducting a S11 audit, as long as authorisation is seen. We'll ensure that children's personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at
- Parents have access, in accordance with our Client Access to Records policy, to the files and records of their own children but do not have access to information about any other child.
- Staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. Staff induction includes an awareness of the importance of confidentiality in the role of the key person.
- We'll retain children's records for three years after they have left the setting; except records that relate to an accident or child protection matter, which are kept until a child reaches the age of 21 years or 24 years respectively. These are kept in a secure place.

Archiving children's files

- When a child leaves our setting we'll remove all paper documents from the child's personal file and place them in a robust envelope with the child's name and date of birth on the front and the date they left.
- We'll seal this and place it in an archive box, stored in a safe place for three years. After three years it is destroyed.
- Where there were Section 47 child protection investigations, we'll mark the envelope with a star and archive it for 25 years.
- We'll store financial information according to our finance procedures.

Other records


- We'll keep a daily record of the names of the children we are caring for, their hours of attendance and the name of their key person.
- Students on placement are advised of our Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and are required to respect it.

Legal Framework

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998

Further guidance

- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2015)

This policy was adopted by	Noah's Ark Pre School	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	18th April 2016	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	April 2017	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	Tony Turner	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chairperson	