

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Staff: Child ratios**

Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety



## **Staffing**

### **Policy statement**

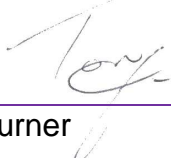
We provide a staffing ratio in line with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that children have sufficient individual attention and to guarantee care and education of a high quality. Our staff are appropriately qualified and we carry out checks for enhanced criminal records and barred list checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with statutory requirements. We follow the guidance set out in Safer recruitment practice.

### **Procedures**

To meet this aim we use the following ratios of adult to children:

- Children aged two years: 1 adult : 4 children:
  - at least one member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification; and
  - at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.
- Children aged three years and over: 1 adult : 8 children:
  - at least one member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification; and
  - at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.
- We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements where a Qualified Teacher, Early Years Professional or other suitable level 6 qualified person is working directly with children aged three and over between the hours of 8am and 4pm as follows:
  - there is at least one member of staff for every 13 children; and
  - at least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification.
- We only include those aged 17 years or older within our ratios. Where they are competent and responsible, we may include students on long-term placements and regular volunteers.
- A minimum of two staff/adults are on duty at any one time; one of whom is either our manager or deputy.

- Our manager deploys our staff, students and volunteers to give adequate supervision of indoor and outdoor areas, ensuring that children are usually within sight and hearing of staff, and always within sight or hearing of staff at all times.
- Our staff, students and volunteers inform their colleagues if they have to leave their area and tell colleagues where they are going.
- Our staff, students and volunteers focus their attention on children at all times and do not spend time in social conversation with colleagues while they are working with children.
- We assign each child a key person to help the child become familiar with the setting from the outset and to ensure that each child has a named member of staff with whom to form a relationship. The key person plans with parents for the child's well-being and development in the setting. Initially All About Me booklets are used to plan for new children and a week of observation takes place where the child is observed and their interests and fascinations are observed and recorded. The key person meets regularly with the family for discussion and consultation on their child's progress and offers support in guiding their development at home. Each term the key person creates assessments for their key child and reviews their learning; this is then shared with the parent/carer in the Learning review session. The learning of our Special Educational Needs children is reviewed each half term and Individual Educational Plan's and the targets recorded are shared and assessed between the key person and SENCO and then shared with parents/carers.
- We hold regular staff meetings to undertake curriculum planning and to discuss children's progress, their achievements and any difficulties that may arise from time to time.

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	

#### **Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

- Employee Handbook (2012)
- Recruiting and Managing Employees (2011)