

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Staff: Child ratios

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

5.1 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.

Procedures

For childcare on non-domestic premises (e.g. nurseries and pre-schools) or on domestic premises (where there are four or more childminders in someone's home)

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

- at least one member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification and is suitably experienced in working with children under two;
- at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification;
- at least half of all staff have received training that specifically addresses the care of babies; and
- where there is an under two-year-olds' room, the member of staff in charge of that room has suitable experience of working with under twos.
- 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 (aged 17 or over) and staff working as apprentices in early education (aged 16 or over).

- 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. 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.
- 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.

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

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

This policy was adopted/reviewed at a meeting of	Little Acorns	(name of provider)
Held on	<u>24th February 2021</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>January 2022</u>	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	Samantha Davies	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Secretary</u>	