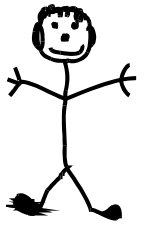




FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP



Policies and Procedures

Safeguarding Children

1.2c E-Safety

We recognise the exciting opportunities technology offers to staff and children in our setting and have invested in age appropriate resources to support this belief. While recognising the benefits we are also mindful that practitioners have a duty of care to ensure that children are protected from potential harm both within and beyond the physical and virtual boundaries of our setting.

To reflect our belief that when used appropriately and safely, technology can support learning, we encourage adults and children to use a range of technological resources for a wide range of purposes. At the same time, we do all we can to ensure that technology is used appropriately and that children are safeguarded against all risks. While it is not possible to completely eliminate risk, any e-safety concerns that do arise will be dealt with quickly to ensure that children and staff adhere to safe practices and continue to be protected. We will communicate our safe practice in the use of technologies with families, and manage any concerns.

This policy applies to everyone- staff, children, parents/carers, visitors and contractors accessing the internet or using technological devices on the premises. The policy is also applicable where staff or individuals have been provided with setting issued devices for use off-site.

We aim to:

- Raise awareness amongst staff and parents/carers of the potential risks associated with online technologies, whilst also highlighting the many learning and social benefits
- Maintain a safe and secure online environment for all children in our care
- Provide safeguarding protocols and rules for acceptable use to guide all users in their use of technology and online experiences
- Ensure all adults are clear about sanctions for misuse of any technologies both within and beyond the early years setting.

1. Hardware and provision use

Where staff have been issued with a device (e.g. setting laptop or iPad) for work purposes, personal use whilst off site is not permitted unless authorised by the provider/manager. The settings laptop/devices should be used by the authorised person only. Only technology owned by the setting will be used on the premises and on setting visit or outings. This includes mobile devices for everyday use and, in case of emergency, a mobile phone is provided. Staff taking photographs or recording with technology not owned by our setting is specifically not allowed.

Children are supervised when using the internet (together with a staff member) and related technologies to ensure appropriate and safe use as part of the wider duty of care and responding or reporting promptly issues of concern. The ipads for the children do not have access to the internet.

Setting issued devices only should be used for work purposes and, if containing sensitive information or photographs of children, should not leave the premises unless encrypted.

Online searching and installing/downloading of new programs and applications is restricted to authorised staff members only. Children do not have independent use to staff ipads with internet so will not be able to search or install anything on a setting device.

2. Data storage and management

No electronic documents that include children's names or digital images will be transported out of the setting e.g. on Fobs, memory sticks.

Setting issued devices should not leave the premises unless encrypted. In the case of an outing, all data must be transferred/deleted from the setting's camera/device before leaving the setting.

3. Email

The setting has access to a professional email account to use for all work related business, including communication with parents/carers. This allows for email content to be monitored and protects staff from the risk of allegations, malicious emails or inappropriate contact with children and their families.

Staff must not engage in any personal communications (i.e. via hotmail or yahoo accounts etc.) with children who they have a professional responsibility for. This also prohibits contact with children who previously attended the setting.

Staff should not participate in any material that is illegal, obscene and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person or persons.

All emails should stay professional in tone and checked carefully before sending, just as an official letter would be. Care should be taken when forwarding emails from others.

4. Social Networking

Employees must not access personal blogs/social networking sites on work premises or use the setting's internet systems or email address for their own use, without prior agreement or in accordance with the setting's policy.

The setting does not condone employees writing about their work on social networking sites or web pages. If employees choose to do so, they are expected to follow the rules below.

Staff must not:

- **disclose any information that is confidential to the setting or any third party or disclose personal data or information about any individual child, colleague or service user, which could be in breach of the Data Protection Act.**
- **disclose the name of the setting or allow it to be identified by any details at all. This includes posting photos of children and young people, the premises or events with work colleagues.**
- **link their own blogs/personal web pages to the setting's website.**
- **make defamatory remarks about the setting, colleagues or service users.**
- **misrepresent the setting by posting false or inaccurate statements.**

Communication with children and young people, by whatever method, should always take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries. Staff should avoid any misinterpretation of their motives or any behaviour that could be construed as grooming.

Failure to adhere to the rules and guidelines in this policy may be considered misconduct and could lead to disciplinary and /or criminal investigations.

Remember that anything posted online could end up in the public domain to be read by children, parents or even future employers – so be careful what you post and who you post it to. For example, posting explicit pictures of yourself could damage your reputation and that of your profession and organisation. Parents and employers may also question your suitability to care for children.

5. Sanctions

Misuse of technology or the internet may result in:

- the logging of an incident
- disciplinary action
- reporting of any illegal or incongruous activities to the appropriate authorities
- allegations process being followed

Adoption and annual review of the policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of: _____ First Step Playgroup

held on: _____ 9th September 2016

Signed on behalf of the Proprietor: _____

Angie Kelly - Manager

This policy was reviewed on: _____ 12.9.17 _____ A. V. Kelly

This policy was reviewed on: _____

This policy was reviewed on: _____

Useful contacts

Early Years Safeguarding Advice Line 01223 729040

Early Years Named Senior Officer 01223 714760

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 01223 727967