



FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP



Policies and Procedures

5. Documentation

Record keeping

5.1 Children's records

Policy Statement

At First Step Playgroup 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 and the Human Rights Act.

This policy and procedure is taken in conjunction with the Confidentiality Policy and our procedures for information sharing.

Procedures

At First Step Playgroup we keep two types of records on children attending our setting:

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the setting, photographs and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- These are kept at First Step Playgroup 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.
- These confidential records are stored in a lockable file or cabinet and are kept secure by the person in charge.
- 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 retain children's records for three years after they have left the setting. These are kept in a secure place.

Other records

- Issues to do with the employment of staff, whether paid or unpaid, remain confidential to the people directly involved with making personnel decisions.
- Students on work experience are advised of our confidentiality policy and are required to respect it.

Legal Framework

- **Data Protection Act 1998**
- **Human Rights Act 1998**

Further guidance

Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers (2008)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

First Step Playgroup, Somersham

Held on

16th September 2016

Date to be reviewed

September 2017

Signed on behalf of the management

Name of signatory

Angie Kelly

Role of signatory

Playgroup Director

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