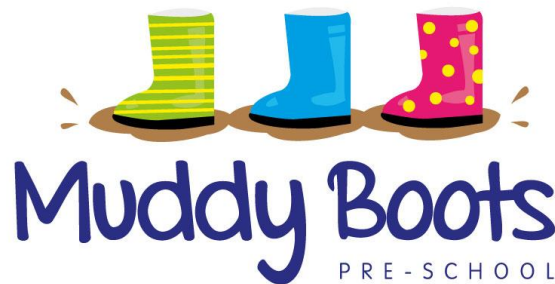


Muddy Boots Pre-School

Suitable People – Employment (including suitability, contingency plans, training and development)



Suitable People

Employment

To include vetting, contingency plans, training and development.

Policy Statement

We provide a staffing ratio in line with the Welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure the 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 criminal and other records through the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with statutory requirements.

Procedures

Vetting and staff selection

- We work towards offering equality of opportunity by using non-discriminatory procedures for staff recruitment and selection.
- All staff have job descriptions which set out their staff roles and responsibilities.
- We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for post, regardless of marital status, age, gender, culture, religious beliefs, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. Applicants will not be placed at a disadvantage by our imposing conditions or requirements that are not justifiable.
- We use Ofsted guidance on obtaining references and enhanced criminal records checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service for staff and volunteers who have supervised access to children. This is in accordance with the requirements under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 for the vetting and barring scheme.
- We keep all records in relation to employment of staff and volunteers, in particular those demonstrating that checks have been done, including the date and number of the enhanced DBS check.
- Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children – whether received before or at any time during their employment with us. A disclosure declaration appears on each staff supervision document for staff to sign to confirm no changes since the last supervision.

Disqualification

- Where we become aware of any relevant information which may lead to the disqualification of an employee, we will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children. In the event of disqualification, that person's employment with us will be terminated.

Changes to staff

- We inform Ofsted of any changes in the person responsible for our setting.

Training and staff development

- Our setting leader holds the CACHE level 3 Diploma in Pre-school Practice or an equivalent qualification and a minimum of half of our staff hold the CACHE level 2 Certificate in Pre-school Practice or an equivalent or higher qualification.
- We provide regular in-service training to all staff – whether paid staff or volunteers – through the Early Years Alliance and external agencies.
- Our setting budget allocates resources to training.
- We provide staff induction training in the first week of employment. This induction includes our Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy. Other policies and procedures will be introduced within an induction plan.
- We support the work of our staff by holding regular supervision meetings and appraisals.
- We are committed to recruiting, appointing and employing staff in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice.

Staff taking medication/other substances

- If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, we ensure that they seek further medical advice. Staff will only work directly with the children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.
- Staff medication on the premises will be stored securely and kept out of reach of the children at all times.
- If we have reason to believe that a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children they will not be allowed to work directly with the children and further action will be taken.

Managing staff absences and contingency plans for emergencies

- In accordance with our term timetable, our staff take their holiday breaks when the setting is closed. Where staff may need to take time off for any reason other than sick leave or training, this is agreed with the manager with sufficient notice.
- Where staff are unwell and take sick leave in accordance with their contract of employment, we organise cover to ensure ratios are maintained.
- Sick leave is monitored and action taken where necessary in accordance with the contract of employment.
- We have contingency plans to cover staff absences, as follows:

- In accordance with our staff rota, those staff who are not on-shift are required to be available where possible to cover staff absences and/or sickness. Staff are contacted by telephone at the first available opportunity following a notification of absence, to ensure ratios are maintained.

- In the event that both the Manager (Miss Elaine Allen) and Deputy Manager (Mrs Cat Allebone) are absent through sickness or other unforeseen circumstances, then currently Mrs Jenny Barker will assume the role of supervising sessions.