

0. Introduction

Early years providers must meet all the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well, including by maintaining records, policies and procedures.

As working documents policies and procedures govern all aspects of the setting's operations and are vital for consistency and quality assurance across the provision. Policies describe the approach of operating and incorporate current legislation and registration requirements. Procedures detail the methods by which the policies are implemented. Some may need adjustment following risk assessment carried out in the setting.

Staff, agency workers, volunteers, assistants and students need to fully understand and know how to implement the policies and procedures, which must also be accessible to parents, so that everyone knows what actions they need to take in practice to achieve them.

Each of the policies and procedures that group and school-based providers are required to have in place are provided in this publication, as well as others recommended by the Early Years Alliance as good practice.

Adopting, implementing and reviewing policy templates

- **The policies and procedures templates help to guide your approach to legislation and practice however they do need to be reviewed and personalised to your setting.**
- Copies of the policies and procedures to be adopted should be made available to all parents and staff; giving everyone the opportunity to discuss and fully understand each policy and procedure.
- It should be explained to parents, employees and volunteers that the policies contain the rules required for running the setting in a way which complies with the requirements of the EYFS and Ofsted registration and must be adhered to.
- All staff and volunteers should be aware of the content of the policies and procedures, and their role and responsibility in implementing them.
- Each policy and procedure should be continually monitored by collecting evidence about the results of their implementation. The evidence should be used to make any necessary changes to the policies and procedures and/or the way they are implemented.
- All staff and parents should contribute to the evidence collected and share in decisions about any necessary changes.
- Named/designated safeguarding leads in each setting have a delegated responsibility to make sure that relevant procedures are known by all members of staff and are adhered to, bringing any cause for concern to the manager's attention.

If any adaptations are needed to any policy or procedure, it must still meet the requirements of the relevant regulations. Some providers may decide to develop further policies, which are not required by regulations, but which would enable a clear direction for any specific issue pertaining to the setting. For example, some providers may require a policy on sharing premises with another facility. Or in some cases a local authority or a funding body may require a policy or procedure that is not included in this publication.

Risk assessment is vital to implementation of many procedures. The providers ensure that risk assessments where helpful, are carried out and updated regularly and will amend or add to the procedures as required. Risk assessment procedures are detailed in procedures 01.1 Risk assessment and 02.1 Fire safety.

Children's rights and entitlements statement

This statement underpins the policies and procedures – in particular, section 06 Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults procedures. It is important that all staff in your setting uphold and work with the principles and ethos within this statement.

RCC support the 54 Articles contained within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). **RCC** recognise that these articles apply to children globally and draw attention to the disparity between and within countries and across regions of the world in the way that children receive and enjoy basic rights. **RCC** support organisations and statutory agencies to promote recognition and achievement of children's rights to ensure a better experience for all children.

As an early years provider and a member of the Early Years Alliance, **RCC** follow the Alliance's **'four key commitments' that are broad statements against which policies and procedures are drawn to provide a consistent and coherent strategy for safeguarding children young people and vulnerable adults.**

1. **RCC** is committed to empowering children, young people, and vulnerable adults, promoting their right to be **'strong, resilient, actively listened to, and heard'**.
2. **RCC** upholds a culture of safety in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its curriculum and service delivery.
3. **RCC** is committed to preventing harm and responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. Working with statutory agencies to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child.
4. **RCC** is dedicated to increasing safeguarding confidence, knowledge and good practice throughout its training and learning programmes for adults, advocating support and representation for those in greatest need.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements:

To be **strong** means to be:

- *secure* in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who can offer consistent, positive, and unconditional regard and who can be relied on
- *safe and valued* as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school
- *self-assured* and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage
- *included equally and belong* in early years settings and in community life
- *confident in abilities* and *proud* of their achievements
- *progressing optimally* in all aspects of their development and learning
- *to be part of a peer group* in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world
- *to participate and be able to represent themselves* in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be **resilient** means to

- *be sure* of their self-worth and dignity
- be able to be *assertive* and state their needs effectively
- be able to *overcome* difficulties and problems
- *be positive* in their outlook on life
- be able to *cope* with challenge and change
- have a *sense of justice* towards self and others
- to develop a *sense of responsibility* towards self and others
- to be able to *represent* themselves and others in key decision-making processes

To be **actively listened to and heard** means:

- adults who are close to children recognise their need and *right to express and communicate* their thoughts, feelings, and ideas
- adults who are close to children can *tune in* to their verbal, sign, and body language to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated
- adults who are close to children can *respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding* of what children express and communicate

- adults *respect children's rights and facilitate children's participation and representation* in imaginative and child-centred ways in all aspects of core services.

Policies and procedures implementation and review

Implementation and review procedure

We have one set of policies and procedures which are consistent across our provision and in line with the current EYFS requirements.

- Policies and procedures are written and reviewed annually **as a minimum or when there is a change in practice or legislation.**
- Changes are only made to the policies and procedures by the owners/directors/trustees of **Rainbow Children's Corner LTD.** In liaison with the setting manager where risk assessment or other reasons indicate that this is required.
- Policies and procedures are risk assessed and reviewed following any incident that is reportable under RIDDOR.
- Disciplinary action may be taken where individuals have disregarded policies and procedures.

Familiarisation and implementation

- It is the responsibility of every member of staff, agency worker, assistant, volunteer and student (hereon referred to as staff for clarity), within the setting to adhere to and always implement the policies and procedures.
- The setting manager offers advice and support to staff regarding procedure implementation.
- An overview of policies and procedures is included in induction for individual members of staff, with specific emphasis given to safeguarding procedures.
- Members of staff must sign to say that they are aware of and will adhere to the current policies and procedures.
- Members of staff understand that they must refer to the procedures as they support all aspects of their work within the setting.
- Staff meetings and in-house training events are used as opportunities to focus on procedures as required, and to discuss their implementation.

- Where there is an outbreak of a communicable disease or infection, the relevant procedure is photocopied and displayed for parents' reference during the outbreak.
- Other procedures may be displayed where a situation arises, for example to highlight health and safety concerns such as closing the gate.
- Following implementation of a procedure, such as emergency evacuation or other health and safety procedures, the setting manager will conduct a review as follows:
 - did all members of staff follow the procedure?
 - is further training required on any aspect of implementation?
 - did the procedure fit the circumstance; does it need adapting or changing?

Parents

- Parents/carers know how to access a full set of policies and procedures.
- Parent/carer forums (if in place) are used as opportunities to explain and discuss the implementation of the policies and procedures.