

VISITS & OUTINGS POLICY

As part of their learning and development, children at Spring Nursery undertake a range of local outings including walks and visits etc. off the premises. Permission will be sought for your child to be included in such outings. Outings and visits are planned to complement and enhance the learning opportunities inside the nursery environment and extend play opportunities for children.

These will be carefully planned and the following guidelines will be followed on all outings from the nursery, whatever the length or destination of the visit:

- Written permission will always be obtained from parents before taking children on trips
- Appropriate staffing levels for outings depend on how the safety and the individual needs of the children can be assured
- At least one member of staff will hold a valid and current paediatric first aid certificate
- A fully stocked first aid box will always be taken on all outings along with any special medication or equipment required
- A completed trip register together with all parent and staff contact numbers will be taken on all outings
- Regular headcounts will be carried out throughout the outing especially upon arrivals and departures from a place to another. Timings of headcounts will be discussed in full with the nursery manager prior to the outing
- A senior member of staff will carry out a risk assessment identifying any potential hazards on the journey or at the location prior to the outing
- All staff will be easily recognisable by other members of the group; they will wear high visibility vests/jackets
- Children will be easily identified by staff when on a trip by use of a sticker system. The nursery name, number and mobile number will be displayed. High visibility jackets/vests will also be used.
- A fully charged mobile phone with sufficient calling out credit will be taken as a means of emergency contact
- In the event of an accident, staff will assess the situation. If required, the group will return to nursery immediately and parents will be contacted to collect their child. In the event of a serious accident an ambulance will be called at the scene, as well as parents being contacted. One member of staff will accompany the child to the hospital, and the rest of the group will return to the nursery
- A pre-visit checklist and risk assessment will always be carried out before the outing. We will endeavour to visit the venue prior to the visit. This will ensure that the chosen venue is appropriate for the age, stage and development of the children.

A full risk assessment and outing plan will be carried out for each outing and this will be available for parents. This plan will include details of:

- The name of the designated person in charge - the outing leader
- The name of the place where the visit will take place
- The estimated time of departure and arrival
- The number of children, age range of children, the ratio of staff to children, children's individual needs and the group size
- The equipment needed for the trip, i.e. first aid kit, mobile phone, coats, safety reins, pushchairs, rucksack, packed lunch etc.
- Staff contact numbers
- Method of transportation and travel arrangements (including the route)

- Financial arrangements
- Emergency procedures
- The name of the designated first aider and the first aid provision
- Links to the child’s learning and development needs.

Use of vehicles for outings

- All staff members shall inform parents in advance of any visits or outings involving the transportation of children away from the nursery
- The arrangements for transporting children will always be carefully planned and where necessary additional people will be recruited to ensure the safety of the children. This is particularly important where children with disabilities are concerned
- When we use a mini bus, we will check that the driver is over 25 years of age and holds the appropriate driving licence.
- We will make sure all vehicles used are fitted to the supplier’s instructions with sufficient numbers of safety restraints appropriate to the age/weight of the children carried in the vehicle. Any mini buses/coaches are fitted with 3-point seat belts

When children are being transported, ratios will be maintained.

If a vehicle is used for outings the following procedures will be followed:

- Ensure seat belts, child seats and booster seats are used
- Ensure the maximum seating is not exceeded
- All children will be accompanied by a registered member of staff
- No child will be left in a vehicle unattended
- Extra care will be taken when getting into or out of a vehicle

In the event of a child being lost, the Lost Child Procedure will be followed:

- Any incidents or accidents will be recorded in writing
- Ofsted will be contacted and informed of any incidents.

There may be opportunities for parents to assist on outings. The manager will speak to parents prior to the visit regarding health and safety and code of conduct.

Staff to children ratios are :

Indoor - 2 years old 1:4
3 years old 1:8

Outdoor - 2 years old 1:2
3 years old 1:4

The ratios can only be followed in normal situation where there are no new students or new member of staff. Extra precaution should be taken in situations such as first timers or possibility of tantrums.

DATE:	REVIEW/READ BY:	SIGNATURE:
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