

General Welfare Requirement: Documentation

Providers must maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the settings and to meet the needs of the children.

Record keeping

5.1 Children's records

Policy statement

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 and Client Access to Records policy and Information Sharing policy.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.2 Inclusive practice	2.1 Respecting each other	3.1 Observation, assessment and planning	

Procedures

We keep two kinds of records on children attending our setting:

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the setting These observations can be defined as photographs, video clips, samples of their work, both adult and child chosen, anecdotal, short written snap shots on post it notes and longer narrative/timed observations. Most

valuable information is gained from the staff getting to know all the children and their key children in particular really well. These observations are collated in their summary developmental reports and their learning journeys.

- These are kept in the filing cabinet in the play room 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 in an office or other suitably safe place.
- 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 Pre-school Learning Alliance or other recognised qualifications and training, when they are observing in the setting, 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 (DCSF 2008)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of _____ name of setting
Held on _____ (date)
Date to be reviewed _____ (date)
Signed on behalf of the management
committee _____
Name of signatory _____
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) _____