

Children's records and Record keeping

Policy Statement

Our Pre- School has 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

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

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the setting, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- These are usually kept in the Discovery room or office and can be freely accessed, and contributed to, by staff, the child and the child's parents
- Developmental records may be taken off site for completion by staff, in a lockable storage case. These records are signed in and out of the setting by staff and parents to monitor their location, maintain confidentiality and protect the data. (See profile tracker book)

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 securely in the office.
- Parents have access, in accordance with our Confidentiality 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.

Legal Framework

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998