



Lost Child Policy

Children are very curious and given the opportunity may wander away from a home, garden or childcare if a door or gate has been accidentally left unsecured. Children can also become 'lost' in busy places. The safety of your child is paramount and we will always ensure that they remain with us at all times.

In the unlikely event of a child going missing or becoming 'lost' whilst in our care we will take the following steps:

- We will immediately raise the alarm to all around us that we are unable to see a child and enlist the help of everyone to look for them
- We will provide everyone involved in the search with a description of the child.
- We will stay calm for the other children in our care, and remove them safely from the situation.
- We will reassure the other children with us, as they may be distressed.
- If the child is not found in the immediate area, we will then alert the police and, provide a full description and look for a recent photograph.
- We will alert the parents of the situation and continue to help on the advice of the police.

We take the following precautions to avoid situations like this from happening:

- Ensuring all exterior doors, safety gates, garden gates and fences are secure in and around the club.
- Ensuring children hold hands whilst we are out.
- Avoid going to places that are overcrowded.
- We teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and of talking to strangers.
- Risk Assess outings, ensuring the outing is suitable for the child's age and stage.
- Conduct regular head counts

It is vital that you inform us if your child is prone to 'wandering off' or likes to play 'hiding' games.