



Lost Child policy

Policy Statement

The care of your child is paramount, and I will always try to ensure that they remain with me and that they are safe. However, there is still a small possibility that a child could become 'lost' in busy places and therefore, as a responsible childminder, I have written a procedure that will be followed in case of such an incident.

Procedures (how I will put the statement into practice)

In the unlikely event of this happening, I would:

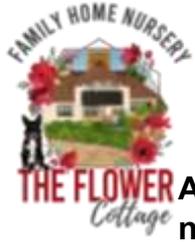
- Immediately raise the alarm to all around me that I have lost a child and enlist the help of everyone to look for them.
- Quickly alert the security staff so they could assist in finding the child, potentially using CCTV (in cases where it is a secure area, such as a shopping centre).
- Provide everyone involved in the search with a detailed description of the child.
- Reassure other children with me, as they may become distressed.
- Alert the police and provide a full description if the child is not found quickly.
- At this point, I would also alert the parents of the situation.

If a child goes missing on an outing, for any length of time, this will be recorded on a childminder incident form and parents will sign this to say they have been informed of the details of incident.

I take precautions to avoid situations like this happening by implementing the following measures:

- If a parent/carer knows that their child is prone to wandering off when out and about, they should discuss this with me, to make sure I am aware that special care should be taken with that particular child.
- I will always keep within my legally defined ratios of children per staff member while away from the setting.
- I ensure that children hold my hand or pushchair while out and reins are used.
- I avoid going to places that are overcrowded.
- On outings, the children will wear wristbands/high-vis jackets with my mobile number on them.
- I sensitively teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and talking to strangers.

Please ensure you have read and understand the Lost Child policy and procedure.



All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and updated when necessary.

This policy and procedure has been development in line with the EYFS welfare requirements and Ofsted guidance, and outlines the provider's responsibility to take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This policy and procedure has been written by **Miss Caitlin Smith**, the Ofsted-registered childminder responsible for the care of children at **The Flower Cottage**, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7TQ.

THE FLOWER COTTAGE