

THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

Registered as Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales
Registered Office: 17a Elmside, Milford, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 5EG
Registered Number: 8791069
Registered Charity Number: 1154900

34. 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 Policy and our procedures for information sharing.

Procedures

We keep two kinds of records on children attending our pre-school:

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the pre-school, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- Some of these are kept in the main room so they 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 cupboard and are kept secure by the person in charge in the 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 or if it concerns essential Child Protection information. In the latter case, the information will be passed only to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 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 pre-school. These are kept in a secure place. In the case of records concerning Child Protection and Special Educational Needs we comply with the most recent legislation regarding storage times. (Currently this is until the child attains the age of 32 years).

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 pre-school, 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: Practitioners' Guide (DfES 2006)