

MISSING CHILD PROCEDURE

Although this would be an unusual occurrence, CMN does have a procedure that we follow in the unlikely event that a child went missing.

The nursery operates an 'arrival and departure' register on a daily basis. Each child's arrival and departure times are recorded. This is to ensure that staff are aware at any one-time which children are present in the nursery.

Staff are aware that the children are supervised at all times and that they are to know at all times where the children are.

In the building

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the member of staff informs the designated safeguarding lead who initiates a search within the setting.
- If the child is found on-site, the designated safeguarding lead checks on the welfare of the child and investigates the circumstances of the incident.
- If the child is not found on site, one member of staff searches the immediate vicinity, if there is no sign of the child, the police are called immediately. The parents/carers are then called and informed.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts their line manager.

Off-site (outing or walk)

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the senior staff present carries out a headcount.
- One member of staff searches the immediate vicinity.
- If the child is not found, the senior staff calls the police and contacts the designated safeguarding lead, (if not already on the outing).
- The designated safeguarding lead informs the parents/carers.
- Members of staff return the children to the setting as soon as possible if it is safe to do so. According to the advice of the police, one senior member of staff should remain at the site where the child went missing and wait for the police to arrive.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts their line manager.

Recording and reporting

- A record is made of the incident. The designated safeguarding lead completes and circulates the incident report to the line manager on the same day that the incident occurred.

The investigation

- Ofsted are informed as soon as possible (and at least within 14 days).
- The line manager carries out a full investigation.
- The designated safeguarding lead and the line manager speak with the parents/carers together and explain the process of the investigation.
- Staff present during the incident writes a full report, which is filed in the child's file. Staff do not discuss any missing child incident with the press.