

01.11 Staff personal safety

General

- Members of staff who are in the building early in the morning or late in the evening ensure that front door is closed.
- Visitors are allowed access only with prior appointments and once identifications are verified.
- When taking cash to the bank, members of staff are aware of personal safety and act appropriately.
- Staff make a note in the shared diary of meetings they are attending.
- The setting manager liaises with local police for advice on any issues or concerns.

Home visits

Home visits are done at the setting manager's discretion under the following health and safety considerations:

- Staff do home visits in pairs; usually manager and deputy.
- Each home visit is recorded with the name and address of the family being visited, prior to the visit taking place.
- If there is reason for staff to feel concerned about entering premises on a visit, they do not do so. For example, if a parent appears drunk or under the influence of drugs.
- Members of staff carry a mobile phone on a home visit.

Dealing with agitated parents or visitors in the setting

- If a parent or visitor appears to be angry, mentally agitated, or possibly hostile, two members of staff will lead them away from the children to an area less open but will not shut the door behind them.
- If the person is standing, staff will remain standing.
- Staff will try to empathise, for example: 'I can see that you are feeling angry at this time'.
- Staff offer to discuss the issue of concern and show they recognise the concern.
- Staff will ensure that the language they use can be easily understood.
- Staff will make it clear that they want to hear issues and seek solutions.
- If the person makes threats and continues to be angry, members of staff make it clear that they will be unable to discuss the issue until the person stops shouting or being abusive. Staff avoid expressions like 'calm down' or 'be reasonable'.
- If threats continue, members of staff will explain that the police will be called and emphasise the inappropriateness of such behaviour in front of the children.
- Procedure 01.12 Threats and abuse towards staff and volunteers is implemented where staff feel threatened or intimidated.
- After the event, it is recorded in the child's file together with any decisions made with the parents to rectify the situation.
- Any situation involving threats to members of staff are reported to the line manager, following procedure 01.12 Threats and abuse towards staff and volunteers.
- Copies of correspondence regarding the incident will be kept in the relevant child's file.