

Coniston Early Years Centre Policy Document

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and Records Providers must maintain records and obtain and share information to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to help ensure the needs of all children are met.



10.4 Children's records

Policy Statement.

We have record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; the means we use to store and share that information takes place within the framework of the Data Protection Act (1998) and the Human Rights Act (1998).

This policy and procedure is taken in conjunction with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and the Information Sharing Policy.

Procedures

We keep two kinds of records on children attending our setting:

Developmental records

- These include observations of children in the setting, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- These are kept securely but can be freely accessed, and contributed to, by staff, the child and the child's parents. These records are passed on to the receiving school/nursery as applicable when the child leaves pre school.

Personal records

- These include registration and admission forms, signed consent forms, 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 kept securely in the pre school office to which only staff have unsupervised access.
- 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. Staff induction includes an awareness of the importance of confidentiality in the role of the key person.

- We retain children's records for six years after they have left the setting, except records that relate to an accident or child protection matter, or are a record of a child's special educational need all of which are kept until a child reaches the age of 21 years. These are kept in a secure place during the child's attendance and transferred to a secure hard drive before being passed onto any receiving school/nursery as applicable.

Other records

- We keep a daily record of the names of the children we are caring for, their hours of attendance and the name of their key person.
- 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 recognised qualifications and training, when they are observing in the setting, are advised of our Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and are required to respect it.

Legal Framework

- Data Protection Act (1998)
- Human Rights Act (1998)

Further Guidance

- Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers (DCSF 2008)