SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN POLICY - ASHBRIDGE NURSERY

Approved by: SLT

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Scope: Ashbridge Nursery, Ashbridge-on-Ribble Nursery, Ashbridge Nursery at Maxy Farm, The Fledglings Nursery

Introduction

At Ashbridge we recognise that supervision is fundamental to the safety, wellbeing, and development of young children. Positive relationships, close observation, and active engagement enable children to explore and learn confidently within a safe and secure environment.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that children are appropriately supervised, both indoors and outdoors. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the planning and monitoring of effective supervision across all nursery settings.

Supervision Procedures

We ensure that:

- Children are never left unsupervised.
- Supervision is active and purposeful. Staff are alert, engaged, and responsive to children's individual needs.
- Staffing ratios are maintained in line with the EYFS statutory framework and adjusted as needed. Staff maintain sight or hearing of children at all times, this includes when children are using the bathroom.
- At mealtimes, all children are always within sight and hearing of practitioners.
- Free-flow play is effectively supervised. When children move freely between indoors and outdoors, staff are deployed in each area proportionate to the number of children present.
- Staff provide extra support and guidance during climbing or other 'risky play' opportunities, enabling children to challenge themselves safely.
- Children are supported during toileting. Staff ensure children are supervised discreetly and sensitively, encouraging independence in line with their developmental stage.
- Activities such as Forest School and River School, or off-site trips are risk assessed and may be supported by additional adults where necessary to ensure close supervision and child safety.

Daily Responsibilities of Staff:

- Be positioned to allow full visibility of children, using the environment effectively to reduce blind spots.
- Complete regular headcounts, particularly when moving between areas and during specific routines such as toileting.
- Interact with children while maintaining overall awareness of the group.
- Ensure all supervision is consistent with safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- Include emotional attunement into supervision- staff are responsive to children's feelings, needs and behaviour.
- Staff support each other by communicating clearly and taking shared responsibility for supervision at transitions, mealtimes, and during personal care.

All staff are made aware of their responsibilities as part of the induction process and have a duty to inform the management team of any breaches to this policy. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with through the staff disciplinary procedures.