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Rainbows End Pre-School

Timebridge Community Centre

Mobbsbury Way

Stevenage

Herts

SG2 0HT

**Children’s Records Policy**

**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 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018) and the Human Rights Act (1998). The Pre School is registered with Data Control.

This policy and procedure should be read alongside our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy, our Information Sharing Policy and GDPR policy.

**Procedures**

If a child attends another setting, we establish a regular two-way flow of appropriate information with parents and other providers. Where appropriate, we will incorporate comments from other providers, as well as parents and/or carers into the child’s records.

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

*Developmental records*

* These include observations of children in the setting, photographs and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
* We use an online learning journal called Tapestry. This can only be accessed by the parents. Key person, Pre-school Leader, and Deputy.

*Personal records*

These may include the following (as applicable):

* Personal details – including the child’s registration form and any consent forms.
* Contractual matters – including a copy of the signed fee contract, the child’s days and times of attendance, a record of the child’s fees, any fee reminders, or records of disputes about fees.
* Child’s development, health and well-being – including summaries in line with the EYFS, record of discussions about everyday matters about the child’s development health and well-being with the parent.
* Early Support – including any additional focussed intervention provided by our setting (e.g. support for behaviour, language or development that needs an Individual Education Plan) and records of any meetings held.
* Welfare and child protection concerns – including records of all welfare and protection concerns, and our resulting action, meetings and telephone conversations about the child, an Educational Health Care Plan and any information regarding a Looked After Child.
* Correspondence and Reports – including a copy of the child’s 2-year-old Progress Check (as applicable), all letters and emails to and from other agencies and any confidential reports from other agencies.
* These confidential records are stored in a lockable file or cabinet, which is always locked when not in use and which the Pre-school Leader keeps secure in the Pre-School office.
* We read any correspondence in relation to a child, note any actions and file it immediately.
* We ensure that access to children’s files is restricted to those authorised to see them and make entries in them, this being The Pre School-Leader / Deputy or designated person for child protection, the child’s key person, or other staff as authorised by the Pre School Leader/Deputy.
* We may be required to hand children’s personal files to Ofsted as part of an inspection or investigation process; or to local authority staff conducting an audit or inspection, as long as authorisation is seen. We ensure that children’s personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at.
* Parents have access, in accordance with our privacy policy, confidentiality, and 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.
* Our staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. Our staff induction programme 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 setting; except records that relate to an accident or child protection matter, which are kept until a child reaches the age of 21 years or 24 years respectively. These are kept in a secure place.

*Archiving children’s files*

* When a child leaves our setting, we remove all paper documents from the child’s personal file and place them in archive boxes.
* The Archive boxes are stored in a safe place (i.e. a locked cabinet) for three years. After three years it is destroyed.
* If data is kept electronically, it is password protected.
* Where there were S47 child protection investigations, we mark the envelope with a star and archive it for 25 years.
* We store financial information according to our finance procedures.

*Other records*

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

This policy was adopted by Clair Rivers-Ward