



SAFE RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

At First steps Kindergarten we are vigilant in our recruitment procedures aiming to ensure all people working with children are qualified and suitable to do so. We follow this procedure each and every time we recruit a new member to join our team.

Advertising

- We use reputable newspapers, websites and the local job centre to advertise for any vacancies
- We ensure that all recruitment literature includes details of our equal opportunities policy and our safe recruitment procedures; including an enhanced DBS check and we require at least two independent references for each new employee.
- Applicants are sent an applicant information pack to complete and return together with a copy of their C.V. The pack will contain information about the company, a job description, person specification and a criminal records self disclosure form will also be included

Interview stage

- We shortlist all suitable candidates against a preset specification.
- All shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview and asked to bring along photo identification and proof of address.
- The business manager and the childcare manager will both sit on the interview panel and are both involved in the overall decision making

- At the start of each interview all candidates' identities will be checked using, for example, their passport and/or photo card driving licence. All candidates will be required to prove they are eligible to work in the UK
- All candidates reaching the interview stage are questioned using the same set criteria and questions. These are formulated around specific areas of childcare, including safeguarding the children in their care, planning suitable activities to enhance the child's development and their understanding of the legal frameworks applied to childcare and used in the nursery. The questions will be value based and will ensure the candidate has the same values as the nursery with regards to the safety and welfare of the children in their care.
- Candidates will be given a score for their answers including a score for their individual experience and qualifications
- The manager and deputy will then select the most suitable person for this position based on these scores and their knowledge and understanding of the early years framework as well as the needs of the nursery
- Each candidate will receive communication from the nursery stating whether they have been successful or not.

Starting work

- The successful candidate will be offered the position subject to at least two references from previous employment or in the case of a newly qualified student, their tutor and a personal or professional reference (e.g. their GP). These references will be taken up BEFORE employment commences. This will be verbal initially and then followed up with a written reference which will form part of their personnel file
- All new starters will be subject to an enhanced DBS check whether they currently hold an enhanced DBS check or not. This will be initiated before the member of staff commences work in the nursery and they will not have unsupervised access to any child or their records before this check comes back clear. Further to this, the taking of photographs of any child, looking at their learning and development log or changing the nappy of any child will

not be undertaken by any new member of staff without an up to date enhanced DBS (whether supervised or not)

- All qualifications will be checked and copies taken for their personnel files
- All new members of staff will undergo an intensive induction period during which time they will read and discuss the nursery policies and procedures and receive a mentor who will introduce them to the way in which the nursery operates
- During their induction period all new staff will receive training on how to safeguard children in their care and follow the Safeguarding Children/Child Protection policy and procedure.
- The new member of staff will receive regular meetings with the manager and their mentor during their induction period to discuss their progress.

Ongoing support and checks

- All staff are responsible for notifying the manager in person should any circumstances arise that may affect their suitability to work with children. This will include any incidents occurring outside the nursery. Staff will face disciplinary action should they fail to notify the manager in a reasonable timescale
- Each member of staff will receive an annual appraisal meeting with the business manager, and also regular supervision meetings with the Childcare manager. This will provide an opportunity for the manager and member of staff to discuss training needs for the following six months as well as discuss their performance in the previous six months
- The manager, deputy and room leaders will be responsible for any support the staff team may have between these reviews. This includes mentor support, one-to-one training sessions, ongoing supervision, work based observations and constructive feedback.