

Bizzie Lizzies Nursery and Pre School.

Nursery Ofsted URN- EY392303
Preschool Ofsted URN – EY2549120 RP
number - 906327

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Looked after child Policy

Policy Links

This policy is linked to the following statutory frameworks and legislation:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework** (DfE, 2021) – Setting standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five.
- **Childcare Act, 2006**
- **Children Act, 1989 & 2004**
- **Adoption and Children Act, 2002**
- **Children and Young Persons Act, 2008**
- **Child and Families Act, 2014**

Other Relevant Policies

- Child Protection
- Equal Opportunities

Designated Leads

The designated leads for looked after and previously looked after children at Bizzie Lizzie are:

- **Sarah Edwards**
- **Sam Matthews**

Looked After Children: Definitions and Status

- The term “**looked after**” generally refers to a child under the care of the Local Authority. This includes children subject to a care order or those temporarily looked after on a planned basis, such as for short breaks or respite care.

- Most looked after children are cared for by foster carers, with a smaller number living in children's homes, with family members, or placed back within their birth family.
- **Important:** "Looked after" denotes legal status. The nursery does **not** use this term to single out a child or use acronyms such as "LAC."

Our Approach

- We embrace the core principles of the EYFS: every child is unique and learns best in a secure, positive relationship with their carers.
- We assess how settled a child is with their primary carer to support successful transitions into the nursery environment.
- Our staff understand that children enter care for various reasons and are committed to supporting each child to reach their full potential.
- We maintain an open-door policy for staff to discuss concerns or sensitive issues regarding any child. All staff are familiar with our **Child Protection Policy**.
- Where required, we contribute to multi-agency assessments or meetings. The designated person for looked after children, or the child's key person, will attend as appropriate.

Support for Looked After Children at Bizzie Lizzie

- Each child is assigned a **key person** to support settling, transitions, and ongoing relationship-building with the child and their carer.
- The key person completes a **Settling-in Plan** with the child's main carer before the child begins nursery.
- Regular observations are carried out by the key person to monitor progress and share information with carers and relevant professionals.
- For children over three, a **Personal Education Plan (PEP)** is completed to track progress, identify gaps, and plan interventions.
- The key person and the designated safeguarding lead collaborate to ensure smooth transitions to school or alternative settings.

Who is Considered a 'Looked After' Child

- A child accommodated by the Local Authority with parental agreement (Section 20 of the Children Act); parental responsibility remains with the parent.
- A child subject to a Care or Protection Order.
- A child accommodated for planned short breaks (e.g., children with severe disabilities or whose parents have significant needs).
- A child remanded to Local Authority care (typically aged 10 or over).

Who is Not Considered a 'Looked After' Child

- Children living at home with their parents.
- Children in private fostering arrangements (non-family).
- Children living with family members (e.g., aunt, grandparent) under informal arrangements.
- Children subject to **residence orders** or **special guardianship orders**.
- Adopted children (after adoption is finalized; prior to this, they are considered looked after).
- Care leavers.