



Lone Working Policy

At Venture Kids the safety and welfare of our staff and the children in our care is paramount. It is best practice and recommended by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for at least two members of staff to be on duty at any one time, but situations may arise where this is not possible, such as driving or escorting children to and from school.

Preparation and planning

- The Manager must approve all instances of lone working in advance and such instances will be recorded on the staff rota.
- Parents will be notified if only one member of staff will be on duty for a session or part of a session.
- A full risk assessment for lone working must be carried out before lone working is approved.
- There will always be another person on site who can be summoned in case of emergencies
- In addition, an 'on call' person whom the member of staff can summon in an emergency will be nominated for each session. The 'on call' person must be able to be on site within 15 minutes.

Suitable staff

Staff members who are suitable for lone working will be approved in advance. Staff members approved for lone working must have all the relevant qualifications, training and skills. For example:

- current 12 hour paediatric first aid certificate
- child protection training
- the necessary skills and experience to supervise the children alone
- does not have any medical condition that might affect their suitability to work alone.
- is familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure - and how this can be adapted to lone working situations.

Working practices

When a member of staff is working alone, they must still keep all children "within sight or hearing at all times". Therefore all essential resources must be readily to hand and not kept in a separate part of the building.

For example:

- child records
- emergency contact details
- first aid kit
- club mobile phone

Related policies

See also: **Safeguarding policy, Emergency evacuation policy, Intimate care policy, Illness and accidents policy, Risk assessment policy.**

Signed:	Date:
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