Missing Child from Outings Procedure

At Muddy Puddles Childcare we take all reasonable steps to ensure children are kept safe while on outings. We assess the risks or hazards that may arise for children and identify steps to remove, minimise and manage those risks and hazards. This includes the consideration of adult to child ratios and carrying out regular head counts of children throughout any outing or visit.

In the unlikely event of a child going missing whilst on an outing we have the following procedure which we implement immediately:

• All staff are aware of the procedure when a child goes missing and supply information to support the search e.g. a recent photograph and a detailed description of clothing

• The designated person in charge or most senior member of staff is informed immediately and all staff present will be informed. Some staff will be deployed to start an immediate thorough search of the area, ensuring that all other children remain supervised, calm and supported throughout

• If appropriate, on-site security will also be informed and a description given

• The designated person in charge or most senior member of staff will immediately inform the police

• The designated person in charge or most senior member of staff will then inform the nursery who will contact the child's parents giving details of what has happened. If the whole nursery is on an outing, all contact details will be taken on the trip by the person in charge

• During this period, some staff will be continually searching for the missing child, whilst other staff maintain the safety and welfare of the remaining children

• It will be the designated person in charge or most senior member of staff's responsibility to ensure that there are adequate staff to care for the children and get them back safely, a member of staff to meet the police and someone to continue the search (this may mean contacting relief staff)

• Any incidents must be recorded in writing as soon as practicably possible including the outcome, who was lost, time identified, notification to police and findings

• In the unlikely event that the child is not found, the nursery will follow the local authority and police procedure

• Ofsted will be contacted and informed of any incidents

• With incidents of this nature parents, children and staff may require support and reassurance following the traumatic experience. Management will provide this or seek further support where necessary

• In any cases with media attention, staff will not speak to any media representatives

• Post-incident risk assessments will be conducted following any incident of this nature to enable the chance of this reoccurring being reduced.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
01/03/2026	Heather Black	01/03/2027