

# Lost Child Policy

The care of your child is paramount and I always have risk assessments in place to ensure that they remain with me and are safe.

However on rare occasions children can become 'lost' in busy places and therefore as a responsible childminder I have written a procedure that will be followed in the unlikely event of this happening.

- I will immediately raise the alarm to all around me that I have lost a child and enlist the help of everyone to look for them.
- If it is a secure area, such as a shopping centre, I will quickly alert the security staff so that they can seal off any exits and monitor the situation on CCTV.
- I will provide everyone involved in the search with a description of the child.
- I will reassure any other children with me, as they may be distressed.
- After 10 minutes I will alert the police and provide them with a full description.
- I will then alert the parents/carers to the situation.
- I will inform Ofsted of this incident.

I take precautions to avoid situations like this happening by implementing the following measures:

- Ensuring the children hold my hand or the pushchair whilst we are out.
- Avoid going to places that are overcrowded.
- On outings the children wear wristbands with my mobile number on them.
- When the children are old enough I teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and talking to strangers.

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