

Safe Recruitment of Staff



At Ashworth View Nursery 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 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, at least two independent references for each new employee.

Interview stage

- We shortlist all suitable candidates against a pre-set specification
- All shortlisted candidates will receive a job description, a person specification, an equal opportunities monitoring form and a request for identification prior to the interview
- Two members of management will 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
- Each shortlisted candidate will be asked to take part in a supervised practical exercise which will involve spending time in a particular age group in the nursery interacting with the children, staff and where appropriate parents.
- The candidates will be observed by the staff who will complete an observation form
- The management will then select the most suitable person for this position based on these scores, the observations 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 a written reference which will form part of their personnel file
- Prior to employment but after the job has been offered a health check questionnaire will be given to the employee
- All new starters will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check whether they currently hold an enhanced DBS/CRB 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 check (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 Policy, about emergency evacuation procedures, equality and health and safety issues
- The new member of staff will receive regular meetings with the manager and their mentor during their induction period to discuss their progress.

On going support and checks

- All members of staff will update a health questionnaire on an annual basis to ensure management have a good knowledge of any changes that may require support or additional resources to aid them to carry out their day-to-day duties
- 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 two meetings a year with the manager, a formal appraisal and a more informal review. 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.

Legal requirements

- The nursery abides by all legal requirements relating to safe recruitment from the Early Years Foundation Stage

- The nursery also abides by the employer's responsibilities relating to informing the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) of any changes to the suitability of their staff, whether this member of staff has left the nursery or is still under investigation. Please refer to the Safeguarding Children Policy for further information.