

Case study: Paediatric First Aid

Name of setting: Thorney Close Childcare Centre

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Information supplied by: Lynn Biggins, Manager

Title: Observing performance in 'real life' situations to assess confidence and competency.

Background detail

The EYFS states that 'Providers should take into account the number of children, staff and layout of premises to ensure that a Paediatric First Aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly'. This case study has been developed to help us to identify best practice of how settings manage this requirement within the sector.

The nursery

Thorney Close Childcare Centre is housed within the Action and Enterprise Centre located in a social housing estate built in the late 1940's and is part of the West Children's Centre in Sunderland. At its last Ofsted inspection it was designated as 'Good'. It predominantly serves the local community which is a recognised deprived residential area; it also accommodates children from the outlying areas.

The Childcare Centre is managed by City of Sunderland's Peoples Services Directorate. It opened in 1994 and gained Children's Centre status in 2006.

The centre is purpose built and consists of five day-care rooms staffed to EYFS ratios. One additional member of staff is allocated as 'floater' to cover in staff absence for holiday/training/sick leave. There is a part-time kitchen assistant, one deputy and one manager. There are 58 full time equivalent places provided daily and there are currently 80 children on roll. Day-care is provided weekdays from 7.30am to 6.00pm for 50 weeks of the year.

Current arrangements in place

There are currently 18 full time staff, all of whom are Paediatric First Aid trained with three having an additional First Aid at Work qualification that includes adults.

About the practice

Considerations and assessment, managing the risk and staff

The setting is purpose built and the manager endeavours to maintain good repair/ decoration etc. The floor plan size could accommodate more children in each age group room however the manager recognises space as being important to promote good health and safety and minimise accidents. Risk assessments are in place for every day care activity in or outdoors, including



outings. This includes the requirement that all staff taking children on outings have current Paediatric First Aid qualifications. An 'outings' first aid kit is always taken when children leave the premises plus a Childcare Centre mobile telephone for emergencies.

The staff work shifts and are deployed into each room, there is also one 'floater' member of staff. All staff have current Paediatric First Aid qualifications so they are already at the scene of an emergency, however the nursery procedure also requires that one member of staff seeks out the manager, deputy or designated deputy to also attend the emergency scene. The nursery policy and procedure is reviewed as a team annually or in response to any changes.

Ongoing development and funding

There are five designated inset days each year, when the centre closes for training. Therefore every three years all staff complete Paediatric First Aid training together, the manager ensures the finance for this training is allocated in the centre's budget.

Any new member of staff joining Thorney Close completes Paediatric First Aid as part of their mandatory induction training. Any agency staff used by the nursery are also required to hold a valid Paediatric First Aid certificate.

Maintaining Quality

Checks of ongoing confidence and understanding of staff

Staff practice is observed and evaluated by managers, monitoring as and when staff deal with any emergencies/accidents/ incidents. Feedback is given in 1 to 1 supervisions. Any areas of policy that need amending would be discussed with management. Consultations with parents are held verbally and feedback is also given through written questionnaires. As all staff partake in Paediatric First Aid training together the managers can assess and observe individuals understanding and grasp of each topic.

Key points of good practice

- High levels of qualified staff
- Consideration for trips and outings to enable continued contact with the setting and enable them to deal with accidents and emergencies quickly
- Planned ongoing training
- Qualification to be achieved during induction training
- Staff observations during training and when dealing with emergencies/ accidents/ incidents to enable confidence levels to be checked.
- Learning from emergencies/accidents/incidents and amending policy as required

National Day Nurseries Association

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