

Safeguarding

Attendance matters



The Statutory Framework requires early years providers to hold documentation about families who use their settings including family contact details. Settings must also keep a daily record of the names of children being cared for their attendance hours and the names of their key person. Accurate records can help you explore patterns of attendance enabling you to check up on a child when there is an unexplained absence.

For many vulnerable children, their childcare provision is their safe space. Being at home for extended periods of time can increase their exposure to potential harm.

“Staff should understand that children with poor attendance may be more vulnerable, they need to know that poor attendance could be a sign of abuse or harm.”

Working together to improve school attendance

Task

Consider how you could maintain contact with families when children are not attending.

- Do you contact parents when a child does not attend?
- Is there an expectation that parents contact you with the reason for non-attendance?
- Do you closely monitor those children whose attendance is poor or inconsistent.
- What are the implications of not following up on non-attenders?
- How will you record this information?
- How will you share any concerns you may have?
- Do you have an attendance policy?
- Do your procedures differ for vulnerable families? Will you need to communicate non-attendance to others? E.g., social workers, family workers etc.

Ofsted and the DfE: Webinar - Why attendance matters:

- Improves attainment.
- Reduces disadvantage.
- Prevents risky behaviours.
- Lifeline for most vulnerable.
- Recovery following COVID.