



Hullbridge Childminders
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Lost Child Policy

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The care of your child is paramount, and we will always try to ensure that they remain with us and are safe.

We take precautions to avoid children escaping from the setting and to reduce the likelihood of children becoming 'lost' outside of the setting:

- Be vigilant when parents are arriving and leaving the premises.
- Children are unable to open the door alone.
- Children are taught not to open the door without an adult.
- When undertaking fire drills, head counts take place.
- Ensuring the children, when necessary, hold someone's hand or the pushchair whilst we are out.
- Avoid situations that would significantly increase the risk of a child becoming lost, e.g. - overcrowded environments.
- Use reins for children who are likely to wander off.
- Talk to the children about the dangers of wandering off and of talking to strangers, teach them how to handle such situations and what to do if they become lost.
- As part of the risk assessment when going on an outing agree a rendezvous point if a child gets lost.
- Risk assessments take place throughout the outing.
- Always carry our mobile phones and money with us.
- Always carry children's contact details with us.
- Parents accompanying us on the trip are reminded they hold responsibility for their child for the duration of the outing.



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In the unlikely event a child is lost, we will follow our procedure:

- Stay calm
- Immediately raise the alarm to all around us that we have lost a child and will enlist the help of everyone to look for them.
- Provide everyone with a description of the child.
- Reassure the other children with us.
- Alert the police and provide a full description
- Alert the parents of the situation
- Following the event and the safe return of the child, we will inform Ofsted.