



Registered Charity No. 1022409

2 Suitable people

2.10 Deployment of volunteers and parent/carers helpers

Volunteers and parent/carers helpers are always under the supervision of a permanent member of staff. They are not included in staff ratios. The preschool manager ensures that volunteers and parent/carers helpers are deployed to assist permanent staff.

- Volunteers and parent helpers assist staff in ensuring that the equipment in their designated area is used appropriately and that it is left tidy at the end of the session.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers give additional support for busy areas or to track or observe children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers inform colleagues where they are going if they leave the room at any time.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers do not have unsupervised access to children; they do not take them into a separate room for an activity or toileting and do not take them off premises.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers are deployed in addition to two members of staff in the garden/outdoor area when in use.
- The preschool manager can direct volunteers and parent/carers helpers to join those outside if the numbers of children requires additional adult support.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers always focus their attention on children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers do not spend time in social conversation with colleagues while they are with children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers allow time for colleagues to engage in 'sustained shared interaction' with children and do not interrupt activities led by colleagues.
- Sufficient volunteers and parent/carers helpers are available to support staff at story and other circle times.

This policy was adopted on

6th September 2025

Date to be reviewed

6th September 2026

Signed by committee chairperson

Signed by preschool manager
