



Staff, apprentices, volunteers' policy

## Recruitment Checks

### Obtaining references

As part of our commitment to safer recruitment **Padbury Pre-school** will always obtain references from applicants for roles in our setting. Robust recruitment checks are essential to ensuring that unsuitable persons cannot have contact with children through employment with us.

Obtaining references is an essential element of our recruitment process. We will always obtain a reference prior to employment commencing in line with the requirements of the EYFS as follows:

- Our application process requires candidates, to supply us with the contact details of a suitable referee from:
  - Their current employer, training provider or early years education and care setting
  - A senior person within the organisation who is authorised to provide a reference.
- If the applicant is not currently employed, or is not currently working with children we will:
  - Obtain verification of the applicants most recent relevant employment if they are not currently employed
  - Obtain a reference from the applicants most recent relevant employer from the last time they worked with children
- If the applicant has never worked with children we will obtain a reference from their current employer, training provider or education setting.
- We do not accept references from the following
  - Family members
  - A generic reference i.e. 'to whom it may concern'.

### Once a reference is received

- A reference received electronically will be checked to ensure that it originates from a legitimate source.
- We will compare the information on the original application form against relevant information given in the reference, for example, checking that dates align, and roles and responsibilities listed are consistent. Where this is not the case, we will take up any discrepancies with the applicant.

Where fun becomes learning!

- If information is incomplete or we feel it is insufficient for us to make an informed decision about the applicant's suitability, we will contact the referee for clarification.
- Before an offer of employment is made, we will ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily.
- In line with best practice, we will seek to gain explanations for any gaps in employment.

**Further information and guidance**

A128 Recruiting Early Years Staff (Alliance Publication)

A129 People Management in the Early Years (Alliance Publication)

This policy has been used in setting since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	<u>Padbury Pre-school</u>	name of setting
Held on	<u>7<sup>th</sup> October 2025</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>October 2026</u>	(date)
Signed on behalf of the committee	<u><i>C. A. McHenry</i></u>	
Name of signatory	<u>Claire McHenry</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Pre-School Secretary</u>	