

Ratio and Supervision Policy

Following the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all the children and ensure their safety. This policy is to reinforce the guidance of the EYFS and also adopt the guidance of the NSPCC on supervision.

Section 3.35 of the EYFS 2024 states –

Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Providers must ensure that children are adequately supervised, including whilst eating, and decide how to use staff to ensure children's needs are met. Providers must inform parents and/or carers about how staff are organised, and, when relevant and practical, aim to involve them in these decisions.

3.36 states – *Children must usually be within sight and hearing of staff and always within sight or hearing. Whilst eating, children must be within sight and hearing of a member of staff.*

Early Years provider ratios

- For children aged under two: At least 1 member of staff to 3 children 1:3
- For children aged two: At least 1 member of staff to every five children 1:5 Where possible, Bright Beginnings will work to a ratio of: At least 1 member of staff to every four children 1:4
- For children aged three and over: At least 1 member of staff to eight children 1:8
- If a practitioner has Qualified Teacher Status, Early Years Professional Status, Early Years Teacher Status or another suitable level 6 qualification working directly with the children the ratio can be one member of staff for every 13 children. 1:13

Ratios and supervision levels will vary depending on the number of children in the Centre and also the behaviour and abilities of the children in the group. Considerations and decisions will be made if a child requires 1:1 to meet their individual needs.

Bright Beginnings operates a two-person working procedure whereby at least two staff members will be with a group of children. No staff member will work alone with a group of children.

All practitioners must adhere to this ratio and supervision policy for the protection and welfare of the children in their care and, also the protection of themselves.

Reviewed by	Angela Hynes
Date	July 2024