



Adventure Pre-School – Key Carer Policy

Each child who attends Adventure must be assigned a Key Carer.

Children thrive from a base of warm and loving care, provided by having close relationships with people whilst in the Early Years. When a parent cannot be there, a key carer is someone that takes on the role of a main carer. They provide comfort and support when the child is distressed and upset. They get to know the child's sensitivities and personality well, so they can understand and meet their needs.

At Adventure children inevitably will not spend their whole session with one key carer as they follow their own interests, therefore we have developed a team approach:

The team provides for the child:	The key carer provides for the child:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close attachment• Familiarity• Supported learning• Comfort• Encouragement• Learning opportunities• Consistent boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point of contact for messages or worries• Advocating for the child• Up to date assessments and observations• Tracks your child's development• Ensuring photos are taken• A postcard to be taken home each session

There will be a consistent team of Key Carers in Georgie's Den, The Beehive and The Burrow whom your child will get to know very well. The team strategy enables all children to build relationships and feel comfortable with more than one adult, an essential skill for school, but also means they are not put into a spin when their named Key Carer is not in as usual one session.

Developing the relationship between parents, other carers, key carers and children is vital. Opportunities need to be used to talk and be seen talking, laughing and smiling, sharing important things that have happened at home or any worries. The more children see this relationship being positive the more they develop trust in key carers. Please introduce other people involved in your families lives to key carers so that they can be involved too. Children love showing off grandparents, uncles and family friends!

It is important that key carers are spoken about positively – that they are there to look after the child and other children, to give them cuddles, to play and laugh and enjoy time – although lots of other adults will be there to do that too. If there are concerns about the attachment between a child and their key carer these should be raised with the setting management as appropriate.

