Student Placement Policy

Statement of intent

South Milford preschool recognises that qualifications and training make an important contribution to the quality of the care and education provided by early years settings. As part of our commitment to quality, we offer placements to students undertaking early years qualifications and training, including those studying for the CACHE level 2 Certificate in Pre-school Practice and CACHE level 3 Diploma in Preschool Practice. We also offer placements to High School students on work experience.

Aim

We aim to provide for students on placement with us experiences that contribute to the successful completion of their studies and that provide examples of quality practice in early years care and education.

Objectives and Procedures

1.Students must be of a required standard:

* We require students on qualification courses to meet the 'suitable person' requirements of the EYFS and to have a satisfactory enhanced DBS check with barred list checks.
* We require students in our setting to have sufficient understanding and use of English to contribute to the well-being of children in our care.
* We require schools placing students under the age of 17 years with the setting to vouch for their good character. We supervise students under the age of 17 years at all times and do not allow them to have unsupervised access to children.
* We require students to keep to our confidentiality policy.
* Students who are placed in our setting on a short-term basis (less than half a term) are not counted in our staffing ratios. Students and apprentices, over the age of 17, who are undertaking a level 3 qualification and placed for longer periods may be considered to be counted in our staffing ratios if they are deemed suitable, qualified, experienced and competent.
* Students' DBS checks are checked and confirmed with the college before a work placement begins.
* We make the needs of the children paramount by not admitting students in numbers that hinder the essential work of the setting.

2. We will develop links with the school/ college in order to support the students:

* A member of staff will be assigned to each student to act as their mentor.
* The mentor will be familiar with the requirements of the college course that the student is attending.
* We will cooperate with students' tutors in order to help students to fulfil the requirements of their course of study.
* We communicate a positive message to students about the value of qualifications and training.
* If students are unsuitable the school/ college will be informed.

3. We will ensure that students are given information required and are engaged in good early years training:

* We provide students, at the first session of their placement, with an induction on how our setting is managed, how our sessions are organised and our policies and procedures.
* Requirements regarding dress-code, time-keeping, confidentiality; social media; mobiles and professionalism are made clear from the outset.
* We ensure that trainees and students placed with us are engaged in bona fide early years training, which provides the necessary background understanding of children's development and activities.

4. We take out employers' liability insurance and public liability insurance, which covers both trainees and voluntary helpers.

M. Riches - July 2023