The Importance of DBS checks in your setting

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The safety and wellbeing of the children in your care is, without doubt, the single most important aspect of your job if you work in the early years sector. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in early years education are a vital safeguarding tool which have been explicitly designed to prevent unsuitable candidates from entering the workforce and having access to children.

A large part of Ofsted's job when it carries out an inspection at your setting is to make sure that the children are kept safe, which is why it enforces such specific requirements around Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

What is the DBS?

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) was established in 2012 and carries out the functions that were launched 10 years previously, undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Its sole purpose is to carry out enhanced checks on anyone working with children, to make sure the children are safe. The checks themselves usually take up to 6 weeks and cost £52.10 each. The certificate that you receive at the end of the process is needed to be able to register with Ofsted and can be available to show to parents if necessary.

Did you know…. the DBS helps employers make safer recruitment decisions on more than four million people every year?

Ofsted's requirements

Ofsted stipulates that the recruitment process in schools and nurseries meets certain safety standards. The procedures that have been put in place should help deter, identify or reject people who might pose a risk to children. DBS checks must form an essential part of deciding whether a prospective employee is suitable to work in your setting.

Engaging in regulated activity with children

The vast majority of staff in your nursery will require an **enhanced** DBS check which includes a check of the children's barred list (a list of people barred from working with children), because they will be engaging in 'regulated' activity with children. It's an offence to employ someone to work in a school or nursery if they are on this list.

What is 'regulated activity'?

An employee engages in regulated activity if they do any of the following as part of their day-to-day role:

- Teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children on a regular basis.
- Carry out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly where there is the opportunity for contact with children.
- Engage in intimate or personal care even if this happens only once.

Childminders looking after children at home are under the same obligation to apply for a DBS check, as well as any adults who live with them or work in the home regularly during childcare hours. This could include a partner, cleaner, housemates, lodgers and all children over the age of 16.

If you are unclear about any aspect of the DBS or if you simply have a question regarding checks or potential checks on your staff, call us on 0800 002 9242 – we are always on hand to help!

More information on the DBS can be found **here**.

Parenta Solutions

SOFTWARE

NURSERY MANAGEMENT - ABACUS

- Save hours by reducing planning time by 50%
- Speedy invoicing to all parents and carers in minutes
- Instant view of all financial reports
- Manage payments and track debt

EYFS LEARNING JOURNEY TRACKER - FOOTSTEPS 2

- Record meaningful and detailed EYFS observations
- Improve essential safeguarding and save hours of time
- Reduce your workload and spend more time with the children
- Identify at a glance each child's development pathway

ONLINE DAILY DIARY - DAYSHARE

- Share every magical moment of each child's day with their parents and carers with our online diary software

PARENT PORTAL APP

- Bringing parents and carers closer to their child's day by providing a timeline of their progress
- Download Parent Portal App on Android or iOS

FEE COLLECTION

- We collect fees, allowing you to focus on childcare, not credit control
- Fee collection reduces stress about pay day
- Maintain good relationships with parents
- Eliminate bad debt from your setting
- We operate on a 98% success rate across the board

TRAINING

Increase employee motivation and keep staff for longer within your setting by offering training - the ideal tool for you to develop your team.

Parenta courses include:

- Level 2 Childcare Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (RQF)
- Level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce (Early Years Educator) (RQF)
- Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner
- Level 3 Team Leader/Supervisor

PLUS ... Parenta offers a free recruitment service - no fees!

ONLINE CPD COURSES

No deadlines, no time restrictions, no classroom! Support your staff or further your professional development with our online CPD accredited courses

MARKETING SOLUTIONS

WEBSITE DESIGN

- Our childcare websites generate genuine interest and leads from parents and carers
- We specialise in designing and building childcare websites so you can rest assured that our team know what Ofsted and parents/carers are looking for

BRANDING & DESIGN

- Showcase your setting with branded products. From newsletters to logos and prospectuses to business cards, we take care of all your branding needs

SOCIAL MEDIA

- We assist you with setting up and using your social media accounts in no time to help you increase your setting's visibility

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0800 002 9242 hello@parenta.com

Follow us on social media @TheParentaGroup

www.parenta.com

Parenta, S02 Second Floor, Knightrider House, Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6LU