



## **Emergency and Alternative Care Policy** (EYFS Updated - September 2025)

**Policy Statement:** At Bright Beginnings, we prioritise the safety, security, and well-being of every child. This policy aligns with the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2025), detailing our preparedness and responsive measures during emergencies and ensuring continuity of care through alternative arrangements when required.

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

- An up-to-date, comprehensive emergency plan outlines responses for potential emergencies, including fire, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and lockdown situations.
- Staff are regularly trained and familiarised with all emergency protocols.

### **Emergency Contact Information:**

- Accurate, confidential, and securely stored emergency contact information is collected from parents/legal guardians, including alternative contacts.

### **Communication with Parents:**

- Prompt notification to parents/legal guardians is prioritised during emergencies using established communication methods (e.g., phone, text, email).
- Ongoing updates will be provided during the emergency.

### **Medical Emergencies:**

- All staff members are trained in paediatric first aid and basic life support.
- Immediate medical intervention through emergency services will be sought if required, with timely communication to parents/legal guardians.

### **Evacuation Plan:**

- A clearly defined and regularly practiced evacuation plan is maintained for use during emergencies such as fires or hazardous conditions.
- Evacuation routes and assembly points are visibly marked and known to all staff and children.

**Lockdown Procedures:**

- Clearly defined lockdown procedures are established and regularly reviewed, covering external security threats.
- Staff members receive training to ensure children's safety during lockdowns.

**Alternative Care Arrangements:**

- Should circumstances prevent regular operations (e.g., facility damage, staff shortages), appropriate alternative care arrangements will be coordinated.
- Parents/legal guardians will be promptly informed of arrangements and provided with detailed information.

**Communication with Emergency Services:**

- A designated person (member of management) will liaise with emergency services during incidents, providing essential details about the setting and occupants.

**Review and Monitoring:**

- The policy is reviewed annually, or more frequently as needed, to ensure effectiveness and compliance with EYFS standards and regulatory requirements.
- Continuous feedback from parents, staff, and external professionals is sought to enhance emergency and alternative care strategies.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

- This policy fully incorporates the EYFS 2025 emphasis on proactive planning, responsive care, clear communication, and children's well-being in emergency scenarios.

Signed: Marie D'Arcy

Date: 1/9/2025