

Lost Child Policy

Children are very curious and given the opportunity may wander away from a home, garden or playgroup if a door or gate has been accidentally left unsecure. Children can also become 'lost' in busy places. The safety of your child is paramount and I will always try to ensure that they remain with me at all times.

In the unlikely event of a child going missing or becoming 'lost' whilst in my care I will take the following steps:

- I will immediately raise the alarm to all around me that I have lost a child and enlist the help of everyone to look for them
- If it is a secure area such as a shopping centre, I will quickly alert the security staff so they can assist me in looking for the child/check the CCTV.
- I will provide everyone involved in the search with a description of the child.
- I will reassure the other children with me, as they may be distressed. If possible, I will leave the children with a responsible person e.g., my assistant/husband that I know has been DBS checked, and is familiar with them, while I continue to look for the missing child.
- If the child is not found in the immediate area, I will then alert the police and, provide a full description and show them a recent photograph.
- I will alert the parents of the situation and continue to help on the advice of the police.

I take the following precautions to avoid situations like this from happening:

- Ensuring all exterior doors, safety gates, garden gates and fences are secure in and around my home.
- Ensuring small children hold my/my assistant's hand or the pushchair whilst we are out.
- Avoid going to places that are overcrowded.
- I teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and of talking to strangers.
- Have the children wear hi visibility vests when on outings that have my name and mobile number on them.

Khadija Daycare