

08.3 Deployment of volunteers and parent helpers

Our Aim

At Peekaboo Childcare, there are times where we welcome volunteers and parent/carer helpers as an extra pair of hands to support children's learning and play. To keep everyone safe, volunteers are always supervised and never counted as part of our legal staffing ratios.

Supervision & Safety

- Volunteers and parent/carer helpers are always supervised by a permanent member of staff.
- They are not included in staff-to-child ratios and cannot be one of the two staff members required on site when children arrive or leave.
- They never have unsupervised access to children.
- They do not:
 - Take children into a separate room
 - Support children with toileting
 - Take children off the premises

How Volunteers Support the Setting

Volunteers and parent/carer helpers may:

- Help staff ensure children use equipment safely.
- Assist in keeping play areas tidy at the end of a session.
- Provide extra help in busy areas such as craft, outdoor play or role-play zones.
- Observe or track a child's play (under staff direction).
- Join staff outdoors when the garden is in use—always in addition to permanent staff members.

The manager may ask volunteers to move outdoors if more adult presence is needed due to the number of children.

Working Alongside Staff

Volunteers and parent helpers are expected to:

- Stay focused on the children at all times.
- Avoid social conversations with staff while supervising children.
- Tell staff if they need to leave the room for any reason.
- Support, but not interrupt, staff who are engaging in sustained shared interactions or leading activities.
- Be available to support staff during story time or other circle-time sessions.