



# Parental Responsibility Policy

## Arrangements for Review:

**Diane Daniels** is responsible for the implementation of this policy and conducting regular reviews. This policy was adopted in November 2010 and will be **reviewed in April 2011.**

**Next review date: April 2012**

Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery and Seashells need to know who has 'Parental Responsibility' (PR) for each child in their care. This is to ensure that proper authority is given when the setting needs parental permission. It will also make sure that anyone with parental responsibility regardless of whether they live with their child, can be provided with any reports and given an opportunity to be involved in the child's care and education. Persons who have parental responsibility automatically are:

- Mothers always have parental responsibility;
- Fathers also have parental responsibility for a child if the father is married to the mother at the time of the child's birth. This continues after any divorce/separation/remarriage even if the child lives apart from them;
- For children born after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003, unmarried fathers have parental responsibility where the mother and father register the birth of the child together ie if the name of the father is on the birth certificate.

There may be situations when other people also have Parental Responsibility for your child. For example, where the court orders that the child shall reside with a named person, that person gains parental responsibility. This could apply to grandparents or aunts and uncles. Adoptive parents of an adopted child also have parental responsibility for them. In these circumstances there will be an order from the court specifying who has Parental Responsibility.

If your child is in the care of the Local Authority under an order from the court, then the Local Authority will also have PR for them. Because of this, we will need to know the name of your child's social worker.

Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery is required to keep on the admission register details for each child in their care of every parent, or person with parental responsibility, details of the person(s) with whom the child lives, and at least one telephone number where one of those persons can be contacted in the case of an emergency.

Parents do not lose their Parent Responsibility nor can it be "handed over" to a new partner. The only circumstances when a parent no longer has PR is when an Adoption Order is made by the court. We have a legal responsibility to involve anyone who has PR in your child's care and education, regardless of whether this is your wish. The only circumstance when this responsibility varies is if a court order is in place specifying that no information on your child should be given to that person. There may also be exceptional circumstances when the police or Children's Social Services tell us that a particular individual poses a risk, therefore should not have access to information.

In order for Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery and Seashells to know who has PR for your child, we will need to see a copy of his/her birth certificate. In the event that any other person has PR for your child, we will also need to see a copy of the court order specifying this.

## **Court Orders**

Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery also need to be aware of any legal orders relating to your child. For example, there may be a 'Residence Order' in place which states that your child must live with you, or there may be a 'Contact Order' in place which specifies when your child's other parent sees them. If your child is the subject of any of these orders, we will need to see the original order to make sure we have all relevant information.

As already stated, there may be occasions when a court order is made preventing a person from having access to any information on your child, or contact with them. If this is the case, we must see a copy of the order and a solicitor's letter will not be sufficient.