08 Staff, volunteers and students procedures

**08.3 Deployment of volunteers and parent helpers**

Volunteers and parent/carer helpers are always under the supervision of a permanent member of staff. They are not included in staff ratios.

* The setting manager ensures that volunteers and parent/carer helpers are deployed to assist permanent staff.
* Volunteers and parent helpers assist staff in ensuring that the equipment in their designated area is used appropriately and that it is left tidy at the end of the session.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers give additional support for busy areas or to track or observe children.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers inform colleagues where they are going if they leave the room at any time.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers do not have unsupervised access to children; they do not take them into a separate room for an activity or toileting and do not take them off premises.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers are deployed in addition to two members of staff in the garden/outdoor area when in use.
* The setting manager can direct volunteers and parent/carer helpers to join those outside if the numbers of children warrant additional numbers of staff available.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers always focus their attention to children.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers do not spend time in social conversation with colleagues while they are with children.
* Volunteers and parent/carer helpers allow time for colleagues to engage in ‘sustained shared interaction’ with children and do not interrupt activities led by colleagues.
* Sufficient volunteers and parent/carer helpers are available to support staff at story and other circle times.