Lost Child Policy

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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 and 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 that I know has been DBS checked, for example, another registered childminder, whilst I continue to look for the missing child.
- **If the child is not found in the immediate area within 10 minutes, I will then alert the police and provide a full description and look for a recent photograph.**
- I will alert the parents of the situation and continue to help on the advice of the police.

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

- Ensure all exterior doors, safety gates and fences are secure in and around my setting.
- Ensuring small children hold my hand or the pushchair whilst we are out.
- Avoid going to places that are overcrowded.
- Teach the children about the dangers of wandering off and of talking to strangers.
- When taking children on outings to new places I will carry out a risk assessment prior to the outing.