

Retention Periods for Records

Children's Records	Retention Period	Status	Authority
Children's records - including registers, medication record books and accident record books pertaining to the children	Records should be retained for a reasonable period of time (for example 3 years) after children have left the provision	Requirement	Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare Requirements (given legal force by Childcare Act 2006)
	Until the child reaches the age of 21 - or until the child reaches the age of 24 for child protection records	Recommendation	Limitation Act 1980/The Statute of Limitations (Amendment) Act 1991 Normal limitation rules (which mean that an individual can claim for negligently caused personal injury up to 3 years after, or deliberately caused personal injury up to 6 years after the event) are postponed until a child reaches 18 years old.
Records of any reportable death, injury, disease or dangerous occurrence	3 years after the date on which it happened	Requirement	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) (SI 1995/3163)
Personnel Records	Retention Period	Status	Authority
Personnel files and training records (including disciplinary records and working time records)	6 years after employment ceases	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel
Application forms and interview notes (for unsuccessful candidates)	6 months to 1 year	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel

CRB Check/Disclosure information	Until the date of Ofsted inspection	Requirement	<p>Criminal Record Bureau</p> <p>Organisations that are subject to Ofsted inspections are entitled to retain Disclosure certificates until the date of inspection, after which only the following basic information may be retained and the Disclosures should be securely destroyed in line with the CRB Code of Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the date of issue of a Disclosure • the name of the subject • the type of Disclosure requested • the position for which the Disclosure was requested • the unique reference number of the Disclosure • the details of the recruitment decision taken
<i>Pay</i>			
Wage/salary records (including overtime, bonuses and expenses)	6 years	Requirement	Taxes Management Act 1970
Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) records	3 years after the end of the tax year in which the maternity period ends	Requirement	The Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960)
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) records	3 years after the end of the tax year to which they relate	Requirement	The Statutory Sick Pay (General) Regulations 1982 (SI 1982/894)
Income tax and National Insurance returns/records	At least 3 years after the end of the tax year to which they relate	Requirement	The Income Tax (Employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744)
Redundancy details, calculations of payments, refunds, notification to the Secretary of State	6 years from the date of redundancy	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel

<i>Health & Safety</i>			
Staff accident records (for organisations with 10 or more employees)	3 years after the date of the last entry (there are separate rules for the recording of accidents involving hazardous substances)	Requirement	Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979/628)
Records of any reportable death, injury, disease or dangerous occurrence	3 years after the date on which it happened	Requirement	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) (SI 1995/3163)
Accident/medical records as specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)1999	40 years from the date of the last entry	Requirement	The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 (COSHH) (SI 1999/437)
Assessments under Health and Safety Regulations and records of consultations with safety representatives and committees	Permanently	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel
Financial Records	Retention Period	Status	Authority
Accounting records	3 years for private companies, 6 years for public limited companies 6 years for charities	Requirement	Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985 Charities Act 1993 (c.10) Part VI
More detailed information on retention of financial records is provided in <i>Finance in Early Years Settings</i> (Ref: A078) Pre-school Learning Alliance			
Administration Records	Retention Period	Status	Authority
Complaints record book	At least 3 years from the date of the last record	Requirement	Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare Requirements (given legal force by Childcare Act 2006)

Insurance liability documents	40 years from date of issue	Requirement	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998
Minutes/minute books	Permanently	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel

The Pre-school Learning Alliance is a leading educational charity specialising in the early years. We provide practical support to over 15,000 early years settings and make a positive contribution to the care and education of over 800,000 young children and their families each year. We actively involve parents and families in all aspects of our work.

Our products and services include specialist publications, childcare services, quality assurance, campaigning, research, training and family programmes. We also offer a range of independent professional information, advice, support and guidance tailored especially to meet the needs of young children and their families, students, early years practitioners and professionals.

If you would like to find out more about our work or you wish to make any comments about our products or services, please do get in touch.

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