Make the child’s day clear

A fictional recording example | Fabjan Pepaj | FAB Publishing

An entry that leaves questions

“Alex refused the activity and was difficult. Staff encouraged Alex and later Alex settled.”

An entry with meaningful detail

At 14:00, staff offered Alex a walk to the local park. Alex said, “I don’t want to go out.” Staff offered a shorter walk or drawing at the dining table. Alex chose drawing and spent 20 minutes designing a football shirt alongside a staff member. Alex then asked to display the drawing in the lounge. Alex did not give a reason for declining the walk.

Why the detail matters

The second entry identifies the activity, records Alex’s words, describes staff choices and explains what happened afterwards. It does not assume why Alex declined the walk or claim an emotional state that was not observed.

Four questions before you finish

What happened? What did the child say or do? What support did staff offer? What happened afterwards?

Practise with your team

Clear, Child-Centred Recording is a 90-minute live online workshop for up to ten staff from one children’s home. Includes six editable tools and a practical fictional exercise. Launch price £249 per home. Dates agreed before booking.

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This sample is for professional reflection. Follow your organisation’s recording procedures. The workshop is not accredited training. All people and events above are fictional.