



ESOS & OC Child protection policy – Updated June 2016

ESOS & OC have been giving children opportunities to perform for several decades, initially by including children in shows performed by adult casts and more recently (since 2004) by producing youth shows with casts entirely comprised of young people aged between 8 and 21 years.

In addition to these shows, children are regularly included in Concerts, Workshops, Auditions and other events organised by the society.

ESOS & OC is committed to making sure the children in their care are always safe, comfortable and enjoying themselves. The society organisers are in regular contact with Surrey County Council's 'Child Employment' team and are meticulous about following the most up to date regulations regarding performance licences, rehearsing hours, refreshments, rest periods and most important of all, safety.

We have a large community of licensed chaperones who volunteer to look after our children at the events we run. All chaperones licensed by Surrey and West Sussex have DBS (formerly CRB) checks carried out. Many are very regular and experienced volunteers who work with children in other areas of their lives as well as with our children. They are experienced at noticing if a child is unwell or unhappy and know how to respond.

Overleaf is a list of the primary measures taken when an event organised by ESOS & OC includes children.

This list is not exhaustive, but we would be delighted to speak further on this subject if required. May we also recommend that you speak to Mrs. Joanne Booth at Surrey County Council for a reference and an independent view on our approach to looking after children.

For further enquiries please contact: Mrs Alison Bond, YESOS Production secretary and Licensed chaperone, on: ali@alibond.co.uk

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1. All children involved in our events are supervised but children under 16 are specifically cared for by our licensed chaperones. The ratio of chaperones to children is never less than 1:12 but is often much higher if the children are at the younger age range. We do not work with children under 8 yrs.
2. Our chaperones note the times the children on a list enter the event and leave the event and ensure they are returned into the care of a responsible adult. If the event is a full day event a further register will be taken after lunchtime.
3. The children's parents submit a medical record for their child before a show or event. These are kept in a file on site during the event so that we are aware of any medical conditions or allergies. These medical forms also have parents' contact details and emergency numbers should we need one.
4. The lead chaperone always has a first aid kit with them on site.
5. The children are given regular breaks and are escorted to the toilets upon request at any time.
6. ESOSOC provides water, squash and biscuits and asks children to bring their own packed lunch and ample water. If a day long event, we cater for any child who has forgotten their lunch or drinks.
7. We always notify parents that we are a nut free society and not to bring food containing nuts to the event, for the safety of the children.
8. Our chaperones are careful to notice if a child is not feeling included or happy at the event and to try and help the child make friends or become more engaged.
9. Chaperones are trained to make sure the children have privacy when changing and are not made self conscious by the design of their costume.
10. Chaperones are trained to notice if the content of the show or songs is not suitable to the age range of the children present and to raise this with the production team if concerned.
11. Chaperones are trained to be aware of the latest time the children may rehearse/perform until and to make sure the children get away on time.