

## Safeguarding Policy

My responsibility as a child minder is to ensure the safety and welfare of children in my care.

I have received training on safeguarding children issues and am aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse, physical, emotional and sexual, and those of neglect. If I have any reason to suspect a problem I will seek advice from the Child Protection Team and / or discuss with the parent.

If I have reason to believe that any child in my care is being abused in any way I will follow the local safeguarding children board procedures and report the matter to the Social Services. Under these circumstances I will not be able to keep information relating to your child confidential, but will need to share it with Ofsted, Social Services and the Police if requested.

What to do: Safeguarding children procedures

If I have concerns that a child is being mistreated, either physically, emotionally, sexually or by neglect, I have a responsibility to take action straight away.

### *Responding to suspicions of abuse*

- I acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual, as well as neglect.
- When children are suffering from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or may be experiencing neglect, this may be demonstrated through:
  - significant changes in their behaviour;
  - deterioration in their general well-being;
  - their comments which may give cause for concern, or the things they say (direct or indirect disclosure);
  - changes in their appearance, their behaviour, or their play;
  - unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect; and

- any reason to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting.
- I take into account factors affecting parental capacity, such as social exclusion, domestic violence, parent's drug or alcohol abuse, mental or physical illness or parent's learning disability.
- I am aware of other factors that affect children's vulnerability such as abuse of disabled children, fabricated or induced illness, child abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession, sexual exploitation of children such as through internet abuse and Female Genital Mutilation that may affect or may have affected children and young people using our provision.
- I also am aware that some children and young people are affected by gang activity, by complex, multiple or organised abuse, through forced marriage or honour based violence or maybe victims of child trafficking. While this may be less likely to affect young children in our care we may become aware of any of these factors affecting older children and young people who we may come into contact with.
- Where I believe a child in my care or known to me may be affected by any of these factors I follow the procedure for reporting child protection concerns.

I will keep the matter confidential to as few people as need to know. Strict confidentiality will be observed at all times.

I will write a note of what I have noticed, said and done and note the date and time. This will be placed in a confidential place.

All actions taken will be in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage National Standards. [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk), and current LSCB. Procedures, Protocols and Practice Guidelines: [www.lrlscb.org](http://www.lrlscb.org) . I have a duty to report any suspicions around the abuse to Social Services and Ofsted who have an obligation to investigate such matters.

### *Informing parents*

- Parents are normally the first point of contact. I discuss concerns with parents to gain their view of events unless I feel this may put the child in greater danger.
- I inform parents where I make a record of concerns in their child's file and that I also make a note of any discussion I have with them regarding a concern.
- If a suspicion of abuse warrants referral to social care, parents are informed at the same time that the referral is made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board does not allow this, e.g. where it is believed that the child may be placed in greater danger. This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser. In these cases the investigating officers will inform parents.

The contact details that can be used to report any incidents for safeguarding children are as follows

Ofsted – 0300 123 1231

First Response Children's Duty 24-7 - 0116 3050 005

Out of hrs. Emergency: 0116 2551 606

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 0116 305 7597

Police: 0116 2222222

Childminder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_