

PP 07 Safeguarding Children

Our nursery will work with children, parents/carers and the community to ensure the safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form. Every employee receives a full induction and the position is subject to 2 satisfactory references and a valid and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Scheme check, employees waiting for receipt of their disclosure forms and employees/trainees under the age of 17 are supervised at all times by suitably qualified and experienced members of staff.

To this end we will:

- 1 create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image;
- 2 encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development;
- 3 provide a safe and secure environment for all children;
- 4 always listen to children.

Due to the many hours of care we are providing, our employees can be the first people to sense that there is a problem. They may well be the first people in whom children confide about abuse. The nursery has a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. This statement lays out the procedures that will be followed if we have any reason to believe that a child in our care is subject to physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect.

Our primary responsibility is the welfare and well being of all children in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents/carers and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

All employees will be familiar with their own responsibilities to act swiftly upon any suspicions or concerns they may have about any child or member of staff at the nursery. The nursery will follow the procedures set out in the EYFS, Child Protection Procedures and their Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and as such will seek advice on all steps which will need to be taken. The nursery has a duty to report any suspicions around abuse to the local authority which has an obligation to investigate such matters

All employees at the nursery will have an up-to-date understanding of any issues and are aware of how to respond to:

- significant changes in the children's behaviour;
- deterioration in their general well being;
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse
- neglect;
- comments children make which give cause for concern.

Employees must not make comment either publicly or in private about a parent's supposed or actual behaviour. Concerns must be raised initially with the manager. The manager will then discuss the matter with the registered person and appropriate action will be considered. Employee responsibilities do not include investigating the suspected abuse. However, employees will keep accurate records of their observations, signed and dated, and of anything said to them by the child or others in connection with the suspected abuse. This information will be kept in a locked cabinet.

It is always important to listen to children. Strict confidentiality will be observed at all times. All our employees receive training on the safeguarding of children from abuse. It is the policy of the nursery to provide a secure and safe environment for all children.

The nursery aims to:

- 1 ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the care of employees;
- 2 ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times;
- 3 ensure that all staff are familiar with safe guarding children issues and procedures;
- 4 regularly review and update this policy.

Children will be supported by offering reassurance, comfort and sensitive interactions. Activities will be devised according to individual circumstances to enable children to develop confidence within their peer group.

Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgmental manner whilst investigations are carried out in the best interests of the child.

Contact telephone numbers

1. Local Authority Designated Team
Name:..... Number:.....
2. Kirsty Cordery Safeguarding representative.
0118 9328117 and/or 07712699410
3. Ofsted
0300 123 1231

Types of abuse

1 Physical abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if an employee has reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning; where there is definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Procedure:

- 1 any sign of a mark/injury to a child when they come into nursery will be recorded;
- 2 the incident will be discussed with the parent/carer, unless this would place the child at risk of further harm, and children's social care notified;
- 3 such discussions will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records;
- 4 if there appears to be any query regarding the injury, the Local Authority Designated Officer and/or Local Safeguarding Children's Board will be notified.

2 Sexual abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if members of staff have witnessed occasions where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters, or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour.

Procedure:

- 1 the observed instances will be reported to the nursery manager;
- 2 the matter will be referred to the local authority through the channels set out above.

3 Emotional abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if the team have reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child, caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection.

Procedure:

- 1 the concern will be discussed with the parent/carer;
- 2 such discussions will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records;
- 3 if there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances, the matter will be referred to the local authority.

4 Neglect

Action will be taken under this heading if the team have reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation) which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including failure to thrive.

Procedure:

- 1 the concern will be discussed with the parent/carer;
- 2 such discussions will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records;
- 3 if there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances the local authority will be notified.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

Employees will make an objective record of any observation or disclosure and include:

- 1 child's name;
- 2 child's address;
- 3 age of the child and date of birth;
- 4 date and time of the observation or the disclosure;
- 5 exact words spoken by the child;
- 6 name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time.

These records are signed and dated and kept in a separate confidential file. All employees know the procedures for recording and reporting. It may be necessary for matters to be raised with the LSCB and Ofsted. Employees involved may be asked to supply details of any information they have concerns in respect of a child whom we think has been or is being abused. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the LSCB, Ofsted and any other relevant authorities in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children.

On Induction to the nursery all staff will be given in house safeguarding training by the end of their first week. All employees will attend safeguarding level 1 training within their first six months of employment and will attend regular updates to ensure their knowledge remains current.

Staffing and volunteering

The nursery manager is the named person within the nursery that co-ordinates child protection issues – the Safeguarding Co-ordinator. As designated person, the manager undertakes specific training and accesses regular updates to developments within this field regularly. Ideally all Safeguarding Co-ordinators will be trained to Universal Safeguarding Children Level 2;

- 1 we provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children;
- 2 applicants for posts within the nursery are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Candidates are informed of the need to carry out checks before posts can be confirmed. Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information;
- 3 we abide by Ofsted requirements in respect of references and police checks for staff and volunteers, to ensure that no disqualified person or unfit person works at the nursery or has access to the children;
- 4 volunteers, including students, do not work unsupervised unless they have a valid and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring service(DBS)check.;
- 5 we adhere to the Child Protection Act (1989) in respect of any person who is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have lead to dismissal for reasons of child protection;

- 6 we have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the nursery and take security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the nursery, so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children;
- 7 the deployment of staff within the nursery allows for constant supervision. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group, the door will be left ajar.
- 8 We have procedures for outlining the safe storage and use of mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDA's) and cameras within the nursery. Please see PP 34 Communications Technology for full details.

Informing parents

Parents/carers are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the local LSCB does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser. In these cases the investigating officers will inform parents.

Confidentiality

All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the LSCB.

Support to families

- 1 the nursery takes every step in its power to build up trusting and supportive relations among families, staff and volunteers within the nursery;
- 2 the nursery continues to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to abuse in the home situation;
- 3 confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child, only if appropriate under the guidance of the LSCB;
- 4 the care and safety of the child is paramount, we will do all in our power to support and work with the child's family.

Employees of the nursery

If an allegation is made against an employee, Ofsted and the LSCB will be informed and the complaint investigated. This may result in the nursery disciplinary procedure being followed. Allegations may arise in one of 2 ways:

- 1 an allegation by a child that he/she has or may have been abused;
- 2 an observation by an employee that the behaviour of a colleague is inappropriate/potentially/actually abusive.

Any employee that hears about or observes a situation in which a child may have been abused should firstly determine whether a child is in need of emergency medical attention, if so this should be sought immediately.

The incident will be dealt with by the manager/registered person:

- 1 a full investigation will be carried out to determine how this will be dealt with;
- 2 if the allegation could possibly interfere with the normal, smooth running of the nursery, either the member of staff or the child will be allocated to another area, after due consultation with all parties;
- 3 the nursery reserves the right to suspend any member of staff on full pay during an investigation;
- 4 all investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file;
- 5 the child should not be questioned unless absolutely necessary and interviews should be undertaken under the direct guidance/consultation of the LADO/LSCB;
- 6 a written report should outline the details of the allegation and be provided to the manager without delay, if made by a child then exact words, dates, times and witnesses must be included;
- 7 unfounded allegations will result in all rights being re-instated;
- 8 founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisation (police) and will result in the termination of employment. Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision;
- 9 counselling will be available for any member of the nursery who is affected by an allegation, their colleagues in the nursery and the parents.

These procedures are intended to provide a framework within which allegations of abuse can be investigated which balance the need to place the safety and welfare of children above all else with the principles of natural justice and fairness in relation to the employee facing such allegations

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board

The LSCB has designated officers with responsibility to provide advice and support to providers in the management of allegations of abuse against staff. These procedures require all allegations (at whatever level) to be discussed initially with the designated officer before a decision is made by the nominated person about the appropriate course of action. This helps introduce an independent view into the decision making process and also provides a measure of consistency into the procedure, this makes the process transparent, open, fair and safe for both children and staff.

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