

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

As a childminder, I am committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children in my care. This safeguarding and child protection policy and procedure sets out my commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Childcare Act 2006, and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021 requirements.

Child Protection Publications

I have copies of, and am familiar child protection publications and follow the guidelines given in these publications such as

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Child Protection Procedures of the London Safeguarding Children Board (www.londonscb.gov.uk)
- Prevent Duty
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused
- Keeping children safe in education

If I am concerned about a child's welfare, my first point of contact is **Childrens First Contact service (CFCS), 0208 8770 6001**, confidentially will be assured only when it is clear that there is **no risk** of harm to a child.

Child protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know this information.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded. I work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent

Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

I am familiar with the indicators of abuse and neglect, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. I am also be aware of the potential signs of radicalization and extremism and will follow the Prevent Duty guidance.

If I notice:

- significant changes in children's behaviour
- deterioration in children's general well-being
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect
- children's comments which give cause for concern
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home or that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation¹⁵ and/or
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with the children, for example: inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images

I will implement the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child. I will call the Childrens First Contact service (CFCS) immediately, if it is known that a child is at risk of harm. I will follow it up with a letter within 48 hours. I will keep a factual record of the concern and will ask the parents for an explanation, providing it would not put the child at risk.

The standards for registered childminders in both England require me to let Ofsted know of any concerns that I have reported without delay.

If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:

- Show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously
- Encourage the child to talk, but I will not prompt them or ask them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account

- Explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child
- Write down what I have been told using exact words where possible
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion
- Then report my concerns immediately to Childrens First Contact service (CFCS)
- If an allegation is made against me or my family member, I will report it to Ofsted and LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer), lado@sutton.gov.uk 020 8770 4776

Compliance with EYFS 2021 Requirements

I will ensure compliance with the EYFS 2021 requirements relating to safeguarding and child protection by:

1. Ensuring that all children are supervised at all times and that they are safe and secure.
2. Carrying out regular risk assessments of the premises and equipment to identify potential hazards and taking appropriate action to minimize risks.
3. Ensuring that all adults who have contact with children in my care have undergone an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and that their identity and qualifications have been verified.
4. Providing regular safeguarding training to myself and any assistants, including training on recognizing the signs of abuse and neglect and how to respond to safeguarding concerns.
5. Ensuring that parents/carers are aware of the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedure and that they are informed of any concerns or incidents relating to their child.

Photography, Sharing, and Disposing

We love to capture the special moments and achievements of the children in our care! To ensure their safety and privacy, we ask that parents and caregivers seek permission before taking any photographs or videos of their child or any other child at our center.

We take the privacy and protection of all children very seriously and we follow the requirements set by the local safeguarding board. This means that we will ask for written consent from parents or caregivers of other children before taking or sharing photographs of their child using all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities.

We will also ask for written permission from parents or caregivers before using any photographs or videos for advertising purposes. This ensures that everyone involved has consented to the use of images of the child for promotional purposes.

We kindly ask that families respect the privacy of other children and their families by only sharing images of their own child. If you have any questions or concerns about the use of all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities such as mobile phones, cameras, smart watches and so on in our center, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Conclusion

I am committed to promoting the welfare of children and young people in my care and will take all necessary steps to safeguard them from harm. This policy and procedure will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure compliance with all regulations and requirements.