

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 2025) requirements.

Child Protection Publications

I have copies of, and am familiar with, child protection publications and follow the guidance in:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- London Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures (www.londonsafeguardingchildrenboard.co.uk)
- Prevent Duty Guidance
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)

If I am concerned about a child's welfare, my first point of contact is the Children's First Contact Service (CFCS), 0208 8770 6001. Confidentiality will only be maintained where it does not place a child at risk of harm.

Concerns that could identify a particular child are kept securely and only shared with those who need to know.

Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

I am familiar with the indicators of abuse and neglect, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. I am also alert to signs of radicalisation, extremism and female genital mutilation (FGM), and follow the Prevent Duty guidance.

- If I notice:
 - Significant changes in behaviour or wellbeing
 - Unexplained injuries or concerning marks
 - Comments that raise safeguarding concerns
 - Suspicions of abuse or neglect outside the setting
 - Inappropriate behaviour by adults towards children

I will act without delay and contact CFCS immediately. I will follow up in writing within 48 hours and keep a factual record. Parents will be consulted unless doing so would put the child at risk.

Allegations Against Me, My Assistant or Household Members

If an allegation is made against me, my husband (assistant), or any household member, I will report it immediately to Ofsted and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):
lado@sutton.gov.uk | 020 8770 4776.

I will notify Ofsted of any such incident within 14 days.

Records will be kept factually and confidentially.

Whistleblowing

Concerns about my conduct, my assistant's conduct, or about safeguarding practice in the setting can be reported directly to:

- LADO (Sutton) – 020 8770 4776
- Ofsted – 0300 123 1231
- NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline – 0800 028 0285

Parents, staff, and professionals are encouraged to raise concerns without fear of repercussion.

Compliance with EYFS 2025 Requirements

- Supervision and Assistant Role
 - All children are supervised at all times.
 - My husband is registered as my assistant and holds an enhanced DBS and first aid. He primarily supports me with meal preparation, household duties and keep an eye on kids who are in the garden when I have to answer the door.
 - On rare occasions (e.g. when I collect children from school), he may supervise children for a short period. At all other times, I remain the main carer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Risk Assessment
 - Regular risk assessments are carried out for the premises, equipment and activities.
 - Ongoing assessments are made throughout the day to ensure children's safety.
- Suitability of Adults
 - All adults in contact with children have enhanced DBS checks. Identity and suitability checks are recorded.
- Training
 - I undertake regular safeguarding training and refreshers.
 - My assistant receives safeguarding awareness training and is familiar with procedures for reporting concerns.
- Parental Partnership
 - Parents are informed of safeguarding policies and procedures and will be kept updated on any concerns relating to their child.

Online Safety, Photography and Digital Devices

We use photos and digital devices to record children's learning and achievements. To protect children:

- Written parental consent is required for photos/videos.
- Images are stored securely and only used for their intended purpose.
- Mobile phones, cameras, smart watches and internet-enabled devices are used responsibly in line with Sutton safeguarding guidance.
- Parents are asked not to share images of other children without permission.

Children will also be supported to begin developing an awareness of online safety appropriate to their age.

Conclusion

I am committed to promoting the welfare of all children in my care and will take all necessary steps to safeguard them from harm. This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation or guidance changes, to ensure compliance with the EYFS 2025 and Sutton safeguarding requirements.