

## **The Role of Leadership and Management In Safeguarding Children**

Safeguarding is defined as:

- *Protecting children from maltreatment*
- *Preventing impairment of children's health and development*
- *Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care*
- *Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes*

Working Together to Safeguard Children  
March 2015

As an early years setting we must ensure that we take all the necessary measures needed in order to keep children safe and well.

Our setting has written policies and procedures in place so that effective safeguarding protocols are in place. Our policies are in line with the requirements of our local authority and Ofsted requirements.

Robust safeguarding procedures ensure that all staff are recruited safely, trained appropriately, and receive a thorough and effective induction.

The Safeguarding of Children Coordinator (SoCCo) for this setting is:

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Ofsted and the local safeguarding board will be notified immediately in the event of a serious incident, accident or injury to, or the death of, any child while in our care. This will be done as soon as reasonably practical within 7 days of the incident occurring

### **Working with Parents/Carers**

Partnership with parent's partnership is key to the ensuring that the well-being and developmental progress of all children is supported.

We believe that it is essential that all parents and carers are informed of their child's progress from the moment they enter the setting until the day that they leave. Information sharing is at the heart of our ethos.

We recognise that early intervention and sharing information with parents and other agencies is crucial for the child's development, and any concerns that we as practitioners may have, will always be discussed, where appropriate, with parents.

If we believe that children are in significant harm, matters will be dealt with accordingly and in some cases, parental approval will not always be sought.

We will always report if the following cases are suspected:

- where sexual abuse is suspected or disclosed;
  - where Fabricated or Induced Illness is suspected;
  - where there are fears for the safety of the child due to possible action by members of their family
  - Where it is not possible to contact the person whose consent is required immediately and prompt action is required to establish or ensure the child's safety

We also encourage parents to recognise their responsibilities in safeguarding children. We request that:

- Parents/carers do not publish photos of their or other parent's children with their names, and name of this setting on social networking sites.
- Asking parents to follow procedures outlined in other policies (e.g. medicine policy/reporting accidents/illness/absence etc.)

### **Procedures for Child Protection**

All staff members who have, or become aware of, concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or unborn baby should discuss any concerns they have with the playgroup supervisor in order to clarify their understanding of the child's circumstances.

If there are still concerns about the safety or welfare of the child, the supervisor will have further discussions with the settings Safeguarding staff and representatives within the local authority.

### **Concerns about the immediate safety and welfare of children**

If staff have concerns for the immediate safety and well-being of a child, we will act without delay to notify child protection agencies identified by the Local Safeguarding Children Board in the area in which the child lives.

If a referral is made to the our local authority Children's Assessment Team, this will be confirmed in writing within 48 hours by completing the our local authorities Multi-Agency Referral Form

Our lead safeguarding officer \_\_\_\_\_ has overall responsibility for completing this form.

<p><b><u>Emergency Contact Numbers</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding Concerns:</p> <p>Out of Hours Service:</p> <p>Family Information Service/General Enquiries:</p>
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Local Authority Designated Officer: (allegations against staff)

Police: 101 or in an emergency situation 999

Ofsted: 0300 123 4666

We ensure that staff understand our Safeguarding Policies and procedures and that all staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues.

Training in safeguarding is undertaken every three years, as well as refresher courses and workshops.

Assistants also have to undergo such training. We also have staff meetings (where applicable) to ensure that our policies and procedures are being upheld, and whether or not any new governmental updates have been implemented.

It is acknowledged that abuse of children can take many different forms; **physical, emotional, sexual, neglect and bullying**. Children are also at risk where there is Domestic Abuse within the family.

We will ensure practitioners know and understand about the different types of abuse by attending all relevant courses in Safeguarding, keeping up to date with current legislation and ensuring that everyone is aware of their duties.

We recognise that early intervention is critical and information must be recorded, and all suspicions of abuse/significant harm to children referred to the safeguarding board.

*Professionals should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:*

- is physically challenged and has specific additional requirements;*
- has special educational needs;*
- is a young carer;*
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;*
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence; and*
- Is showing early signs of ill-treatment and neglect.*

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