

Safeguarding Policy

As a childcare setting, we are responsible for ensuring the safety and welfare of all the children in our care by abiding by the regulations and procedures enforced by our local safeguarding children’s board. We also ensure we follow the guidelines stated within the EYFS. (3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8)

The Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for producing ‘Safeguarding Children Procedures’ based on national guidelines set out in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018’. It monitors the effectiveness of the Procedures systematically and amends them as it becomes necessary.

All staff are trained or on employment are required to attend training on Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) and are aware of the symptoms and signs of maltreatment. These forms of abuse include physical, emotional, sexual, neglect and female gender mutilation.

All staff are also made aware that Jo (Manager) is our in-house Child Protection officer and in her absence, concerns should be reported to deputes Lisa or Rachael. These concerns will then be dealt with in accordance to our child protection policy.

Indicators of child abuse

• Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones

• Fearful or withdrawn tendencies

• Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff

• Repeated injuries

• Unaddressed illnesses or injuries

• Significant changes to behaviour patterns.

Softer signs of abuse as defined by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) include:

• Low self-esteem

• Wetting and soiling

• Recurrent nightmares

• Aggressive behaviour

• Withdrawing communication

• Habitual body rocking

• Indiscriminate contact or affection seeking

• Over-friendliness towards strangers

• Excessive clinginess

• Persistently seeking attention.

Children at greater risk are

* Those with disabilities requiring additional needs
* Children requiring special educational needs
* Young carers
* Those that are at risk of being drawn into anti-social behaviour and gang involvement
* Children who go missing
* Those at risk of modern slavery/trafficking
* Being radicalized
* Goes missing from home
* Misusing drugs/Alcohol
* Challenging home life
* Privately fostered children
* Returning home after time in care

If we have a reason to believe that any child in our care is being abused in any way, we will report it to our local authority agency.

Local authority children’s social care team MASH 0300 555 1386

Local authority Designated Officer (LADO) Barbara Piddington 01962 876364 Hampshire Children’s Service 0300 555 1384.

Ofsted 0300 123 1231

Non-emergency police 101

In any case where we feel that a child is at risk from being radicalised, we will immediately contact the government helpline for extremism concerns on 020 7340 7264 and take their advice from there on.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also another concern and form of abuse. We provide training for our staff on a specialist course at the first possible opportunity. If we notice any children who are or likely to suffer FGM we immediately report our concerns accordingly as stated above*. FGM helpline**Tel: 0800**028 3550*

Under any of these circumstances, any information relating to your child will no longer be held confidentially within the setting as we are required by law to share such information to those who may need to review it. Services who will have access will include Ofsted, children’s services and the police as mentioned above. Parents are required to read our policies during the registration period and within these are made aware of these procedures.

Next Steps Day care are registered with the commissioner’s office for data protection purposes. If you have agreed and signed for my photo permission policy, we will take photos of your child/children for observations, wall displays and to put them on our secure Facebook page. I will not share any photos or footage of your children with anyone else, nor will I put anything on the Internet, which isn’t the secure Facebook page.

In order to comply the regulations set out by data protection, when in our setting no other person is permitted to use any mobile device. I understand some people may need to take an important phone call, but for the safety and respect of the other children in my setting I would appreciate if you take calls outside of the setting.

Please see our ‘Allegations of Abuse Policy’ regarding how we will protect staff from any allegation made against us.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please discuss them with a member of the management team.

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