

## **Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare (Child Protection)**

This Policy defines the procedures to be followed upon where it is alleged or suspected, or has been discovered, that a child has been abused by a third party.

### **1. PRINCIPLES OF CHILD PROTECTION:**

1.1 setting Management is committed to the following principles regarding the abuse of a child:

1.1.1 It is recognised that abuse can and does occur in society, and that this may take the following forms:

- verbal abuse / threats
- racial / sectarian abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- physical abuse

1.1.2 The fundamental responsibility of the Nursery is to ensure the welfare and protection of the child, and THAT EVERY CHILD IN OUR CARE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ABUSE. It is therefore the policy at the Nursery that any staff member who does not possess a valid and current CRB Disclosure Certificate is never left alone with a child.

1.1.3 All staff will receive appropriate training at the Induction stage in abuse of the child. This training will focus upon the types of abuse, the signs and symptoms involved, and the appropriate action to be taken.

1.2 With respect to sources of abuse, the setting recognises the following:

1.2.1 The setting's management procedures and arrangements are designed so that all possible measures are taken to ensure that abuse of a child does not occur as a result, either directly or indirectly, of any of the activities provided by the setting.

1.2.2 Where it is suspected that a child has suffered abuse at the hands of a third party the setting has a duty to report these suspicions to the Local Authority, and will follow procedures set down in the Local Authority Child Protection Policies.

1.3 For the purposes of this Policy, and in line with Local Authority Policies, abuse will be classified into the following 4 categories:

- physical injury
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect

### **2. INVOLVEMENT:**

2.1 It is the underlying policy of the setting that the safety, well-being and protection of the child are paramount. Procedures require that any injuries or illnesses that a child has suffered, whether at home or in the setting, are recorded. Where there is serious concern, for example where abuse is suspected, this will be reported immediately to the setting Manager, who will review the evidence and take the appropriate action. Such action may include the involvement of the Social Services Child Protection Team, and in all cases issues and concerns are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

2.2 It is the policy of the setting to involve the child's family or guardians at all stages unless it is considered, at the discretion of the setting Manager, that this is not in the child's best interests and the child could be exposed to further risk.

### 3. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES:

#### 3.1 Physical Injury:

##### 3.1.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratches / cuts / bite marks / pinch marks inconsistent with normal play activities
- burns / scalds inconsistent with explanations offered
- bruises in body areas not usually harmed through normal play activities
- bruises indicative of slaps, punches, being squeezed or violently shaken
- bruises suggesting the use of straps or sticks
- nervous / fearful watchfulness; fear of physical contact by adults
- unexplained fractures

##### 3.1.2 Action to be taken:

Any sign of a mark or injury noticed when the child comes into the setting will be recorded, and discussed with the main parent or guardian. These discussions will also be recorded, ensuring that the parent or guardian is provided access to these records. If explanations are judged to be unsatisfactory, the Local Authority Child Protection Officer will be informed.

#### 3.2 Sexual Abuse:

##### 3.2.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratching / soreness / unexplained rashes in the genital areas
- stained / bloodstained underclothes
- bruises on inner thighs and buttocks
- discomfort when sitting or walking
- constant wetting or soiling of clothing
- suggestion of undue sexual awareness through play, drawings or the use of inappropriate words

##### 3.2.2 Action to be taken:

All observations will be reported immediately to the Local Authority Child Protection Officer.

### 3.3 Emotional Abuse:

#### 3.3.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- undue aggression or withdrawal
- constant wetting or veiling of clothing
- poor language development / speech disorders such as stammering or stuttering
- inability to relate to adults and other children
- telling lies
- tantrums beyond the age where they would be expected as normal development

#### 3.3.2 Action to be taken:

Any concerns will be discussed with the main parent or guardian. These discussions will be recorded, ensuring that the parent or guardian is provided access to these records. If explanations are judged to be unsatisfactory, the Local Authority Child Protection Officer will be informed.

### 3.4 Neglect:

#### 3.4.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- poor standards of personal hygiene / unwashed, dirty clothing
- constant hunger
- underweight for their age / emaciation
- constant tiredness / listlessness
- untreated medical conditions
- BABIES: constant soreness / rash from infrequent changing of nappies

#### 3.4.2 Action to be taken:

Any concerns will be discussed with the main parent or guardian. These discussions will be recorded, ensuring that the parent or guardian is provided access to these records. If explanations are judged to be unsatisfactory, the Local Authority Child Protection Officer will be informed.

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 repeats 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

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- If an allegation is made against me, I will report it to Ofsted/CSSIW and social services, following the Safeguarding Children Board procedures. advice and support.

In all instances I will record:

- the child's full name and address
- the date and time of the record
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present
- details of any explanations from the parents
- any action taken such as speaking to parents.

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

**Parents must notify the setting of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded. We work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent – please refer to my Working with Parents policy.**

The manager and her deputy are responsible for all safe guarding issues

Baby Unit + Out-Of-School - Manager: Hasina Monir Deputy: Eva Herz

Pre-School + Out-Of-School - Setting Manager - Bridget Nicol Deputy: Josephine Showers

Out-Of-School - Manager - Andrene Sergeon 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command: Danyella Bogle

3<sup>rd</sup> in Command: Jodie

Burnham

### Useful telephone Numbers

Local police station	020 7326 1212
CSSIW	01443 848 450
Ofsted	0300 123 1231
NSPCC child protection helpline –	0808 800 5000
24 hours helpline for people worried about a child	
Local Authority Referral And Assessment Team	020 7926 7856 / 7868 / 6508
Out Of Hours	020 7926 1000