

Allegations of Abuse Policy

I work as a childminder and am therefore vulnerable to allegations of abuse being made against me, my staff or members of my family. I take the following precautions to protect myself, my staff and family from this happening:

- I ensure all members of my household over the age of 16 and any staff or assistants I employ have been DBS checked, and are encouraged to sign up on the DBS update service.
- I keep note of any bruises/marks on children when they arrive and ask parents to inform me of any accidents that have occurred whilst outside my care.
- I record every accident or incident that occurs in my setting, inform parents and request them to sign my records.
- I ensure children are supervised at all times.
- I ensure all visitors to my childcare setting sign the visitor's logbook and do not have unsupervised access to the children under any circumstances.
- I will endeavour, when possible, to arrange for any maintenance work to my property to be carried out at weekends or during non-minding hours.
- I keep accurate records for every child in my care including details of activities, nap times and daily routines.

Should an allegation of abuse be made against me, or a member of my household, I will contact the following organisations for support and professional advice:

- Lambeth Local Child Protection Team/Local Safeguarding Partnership
- Ofsted/Care Inspectorate (within 14 days of any allegations)
- Pacey (Professional Association of Childcare and Early Years)
- My Insurance Provider

I will also write a detailed report of all related incidents, recording what was said by whom including times and dates. I will refer to my own documentation where relevant including children's contact diaries, accident / incident reports, etc. I will also ask any witnesses (if there were any) to write a report detailing events and giving their contact details.

All this information shall be passed on to the relevant authorities as required.

Should you have any concerns regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.