

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

It is my responsibility as a childminder is to ensure the safety and welfare of all children in my care.

I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead and refresh my training on child protection and safeguarding regularly. I am aware of the signs and symptoms of all types of child abuse, physical, emotional, sexual, and those of neglect.

Forms of Abuse, Signs and Symptoms

Physical Abuse is where deliberate physical harm is inflicted and can involve hitting, kicking, punching, throwing, shaking, scalding, burning, poisoning, drowning or suffocating. Physical abuse also includes where someone has deliberately caused the ill health of another through fabricated or induced illness in order to seek attention.

FGM (Female genital mutilation) is a collective term for procedures which involve the full or partial removal of external female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. This practice is not required by ANY religion and causes extreme pain and serious health consequences. FGM is illegal, medically unnecessary, and is regarded as a form of physical abuse. Further information, legislation and guidance can be found on the NSPCC website here:

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/

***Symptoms of physical abuse include:** unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body, cigarette burns, human bite marks, broken bones, scalds, flinching when approached or touched, reluctance to get changed, depression, withdrawn behaviour, running away from home.*

Emotional Abuse is when a person's emotions are deliberately ignored, taken advantage of or not met. Children require love, security, praise and recognition in order to grow and develop emotionally. Someone may be regarded as being emotionally abusive where he or she is consistently hostile, rejecting, verbally abusive or threatening towards another individual. Domestic abuse can also be regarded as a form of emotional abuse and can include situations where inappropriate expectations are placed on an individual or when someone is prevented from having social contact with others.

***Symptoms of emotional abuse include:** neurotic behaviour e.g., sulking, hair twisting, rocking, withdrawn behaviour, being unable to play, fear of making mistakes, too eager to please, sudden speech disorders, self-harm, eating disorders, very low self-esteem, developmental delay in terms of emotional progress*

Sexual Abuse occurs when someone is forced or enticed into taking part in sexual activities, regardless of whether they are aware of what is happening or not. Sexual abuse can include both penetrative or non-penetrative physical contact or being made to watch sexual activities, for example pornographic material.

***Symptoms of sexual abuse include:** pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in or near the genital area, sexually transmitted disease, vaginal discharge or infection, stomach pains, discomfort when walking or sitting down, pregnancy, sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour, fear of being left with a specific person or group of people, sexual knowledge which is beyond their age or developmental level, sexual drawings or language, acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults*

Neglect is when there is persistent failure to meet a child or vulnerable person's basic physical or psychological need. Neglect can cause significant harm to an individual's health and development and can

include being left unsupervised or alone for long periods of time, being inadequately fed or clothed, ignoring or failing to assist with medical (e.g., failure to seek medical treatment or administer medication) or personal hygiene needs (e.g., toileting, washing, tooth brushing, etc.). Being kept in inappropriate, unsafe or unhygienic accommodation can also be viewed as neglect as can lack of stimulation, social contact or education.

Signs of neglect include: *constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children, constantly dirty or having foul body odour, loss of weight, or being constantly underweight, inappropriate clothing for the conditions, complaining of being tired all the time, not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments, having few friends, mentioning being left alone or unsupervised.*

Due to the seriousness of these issues, I will continue to keep up with current legislation, and do any necessary training. All staff employed within the setting are required to refresh their safeguarding knowledge annually and refresh their training every two years.

Safeguarding Concerns

If I have any concerns about any child in my care, I will:

- Discuss the matter with the child's parents or, where I feel this is not appropriate or fear this could put the child into further danger, seek advice from my Local Child Protection Team or the NSPCC helpline who will advise me on how to deal with the situation.
- Report the matter immediately to my Local Child Protection Team if, following discussions, the matter remains unresolved or I believe that any child in my care is being abused in any way.
- Seek the involvement of the police and /or social workers where I believe a child is at immediate risk of harm.
- Keep written records of any concerns about a child in my Safeguarding / Record of Concerns Logbook. Each record will contain the child's name and date of birth, the date the record was made, details of concerns, any explanation given by parents, a body map detailing any visible injuries or marks, what action was taken as a result of the concern, what follow up action is required and my signature. All records will be kept confidentially and securely but will be shared with the local child protection team, social workers, Ofsted or the police as part of child protection procedures where there is immediate concern for a child's wellbeing.

Please also refer to my **Non-mobile Child Policy** for further details of the procedures I follow in order to protect non-mobile babies and children.

If a child discloses abuse

If a child informs me that they or another child is being mistreated or abused, I will:

- Show the child that I am listening; let them know that I take their allegations seriously and that I will do my best to help.
- Reassure them that they can feel comfortable talking to me, encourage them to open up but never prompt them or ask them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events or make a child repeat their account of events that have caused trauma or upset.
- Explain in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child the actions I must take in order to help them.

- Record what I have been told using exact words where possible in my safeguarding/record of concerns logbook. I will include in this record the date, time, place and any other people present at the discussion so as they can be recalled as a witness if necessary.
- Report my concerns immediately to my Local Child Protection Team who will advise me on how to deal with the situation and if necessary, seek the involvement of social workers and/or the police.

Prevent Duty Guidance

In addition to the most common forms of abuse, I also understand the risk of radicalisation and extremist behaviour and am aware of my responsibilities in relation to the Prevent Duty Guidance, which became law on 1st July 2015. The Prevent Duty Guidance can be found here:

www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/06/prevent-duty-departmental-advice.pdf

As a childminder I will:

- Promote British Values in my setting as required by the Prevent Duty Guidance through our daily activities and routine to teach children about; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and personal responsibility, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different cultures, faiths and beliefs.
- Ensure children and young people are protected from being radicalised or drawn into terrorism by enforcing strict safeguarding procedures.
- Refer to the Prevent Duty guidance and undergo regular training that will help me to identify children or young people who may be at risk and how to challenge extremist ideas that may lead to terrorism.
- Enforce strict safeguarding procedures when allowing children to access the internet to ensure they are safe from terrorist and extremist material. I will also pass on internet safety information and guidance to parents.
- Seek advice from my Local Authority Development Officer and contact the police immediately if I have concerns about a child or their family members.

Child On Child Abuse

I am also aware that children and young people are capable of abusing other children. I will not tolerate bullying within my setting and have an **Anti-Bullying Policy** in place, which explains the methods I use to prevent bullying, and what action I would take should I suspect that a child was being bullied or is bullying another child. Unfortunately, in extreme cases, child on child abuse may lead to gang violence, sexual exploitation, financial abuse, coercive control or domestic abuse. It is therefore extremely important that children feel they have someone they can talk to about their worries and their relationships with others. I like to think I am approachable and try to make children feel as safe as possible in my care. Meetings with parents will be arranged where concerns have been raised either in my care or at home. I encourage parents to discuss any worries they have with me so as we can work together in the best interests of their child.

I will log any concerns and the action taken in my Safeguarding – Record of Concerns logbook.

Please also see my **Allegations of Abuse Policy** which outlines how I will deal with allegations being made against myself or members of my family/household.

I have a duty of care to protect children in my care and will always seek further advice from my Local Child Protection Team or the NSPCC should I have any child protection concerns. Should I feel that the response of my Local Child Protection Team has been unsatisfactory or concerns are on going, I will request further assistance and where necessary involve the police.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy or child protection procedures, please discuss them with me.

Useful Contacts:

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NSPCC Helpline:
help@nspcc.org.uk

0808 800 5000

Ofsted
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

0300 123 1231

Police (Streatham)
www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/lambeth/streatham-common-and-vale

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Khadija Daycare

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