



Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children

The EYFS says:

3.4 Providers must be alert to any issues for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. Providers must have and implement a policy, and, procedures to safeguard children. These should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) The safeguarding policy and procedures must include an explanation of the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting.

3.5 A practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting. Childminder must take the lead responsibility themselves. The lead practitioner is responsible for liaison with local statutory children's services agencies, and with the LSCB. They must provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required. The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect.

3.6 Providers must train all staff to understand their safeguarding policy and procedures, and ensure that all staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues. Training made available by the provider must enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way. These may include:

- Significant changes in children's behaviour;
- Deterioration in children's general well-being;
- Unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect;
- Children's comments which give cause for concern;
- Any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home; and/or
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with the children. For example, inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images.

3.7 Providers must have regard to the Governments statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013. If providers have concerns about children's safety or welfare, they must notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and, in emergencies, the police.

Little Cubs Childminding, Wotton Under Edge

3.8. Registered providers must inform Ofsted or their childminder agency of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). Registered providers must also notify Ofsted or their childminder agency of the action taken in respect of the allegations. These notifications must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

The designated lead, responsible for safeguarding children in this setting is: Jodie McTear

It is my legal duty to protect all children in my care as defined by the Children's Act 2004 and the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014

I will use the Safeguarding Gloucestershire Children Model Policy; the latest version is accessed via the Safeguarding Sheffield Children Board website.

I am aware that I am responsible for the behaviour of adults within the setting (see 'Safeguarding- suitable people').

It is my intention to create a safe learning environment that builds the confidence and self-esteem of children by ensuring:

- Physical safety of children is protected
- Children can talk and are listened to
- Children to not experience bullying (see separate policy) harassment, racism (see equality of opportunity) or any other discrimination
- Children's health and medical needs are met
- Children are never left unattended on the premises

Attend training / awareness courses

I will:

- Attend training /awareness courses related to Child Protection issues to ensure that I am able to recognise the sign/symptoms of possible abuse.
- Complete training at least every 3 years.
- Ensure all staff complete safeguarding training

Prevent abuse by means of good practice

I will:

Little Cubs Childminding, Wotton Under Edge

- Not leave adults without DBS clearance with any child.
- Encourage children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence
- Support children in making choices
- Help children to find names for their own feelings and acceptable ways to express them. This will enable children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.

Respond appropriately to suspicions of abuse

I will:

- Not investigate any allegations or suspicions regarding the children in my care.
- Document any changes to a child's behaviour or changes in their physical appearance - this includes documenting injuries occurring in the setting or at home - we will fill in an existing injuries form. (see accident/incidents)
- Refer to the flow chart from the Safeguarding Gloucestershire Children's Board
- Take advice from the Safeguarding Gloucestershire Children's Board who may advise reporting to Children's and Family services.

Keep records

I will:

- Whenever worrying changes are observed in a child's behaviour, physical condition or appearance, a specific and confidential record will be set up, quite separate from the usual on-going records of a child's progress and development.
- Record, in addition to the name, address and age of the child: timed and dated observations, describing objectively the child's behaviour and appearance, without comment or interpretation; where possible, the exact words spoken by the child; the name and signature of the recorder.

Liase with other bodies

- I operate in accordance with Ofsted guidelines.
- Confidential records kept on children will be shared with the appropriate authorities if needed.

Support families

- The care and safety of the children must always be paramount. I shall take every step to build up trusting and supportive relationships with families and I will continue to work with families wherever possible.
- The following agencies may be contacted:
 - Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children's Board - 01452 583629
 - Gloucestershire's safeguarding children's helpdesk – 01452 426565
 - Ofsted - 0300 123 1231

- I will, upon identifying concerns, discuss with the parents/caregivers unless:
 - Discussion will put a child at risk of significant harm
 - Discussion will put our own family at risk of significant harm
 - Involving caregivers may impede the police investigation
 - Sexual abuse is suspected
 - Informing caregivers will put us or others at risk
 - Discussion could put one of the caregivers at risk

- If a child tells me that they or another child is at risk I will:
 - Stop any activity and focus on what I am being told
 - Not promise a child confidentiality
 - Give support and reassurance
 - Use open questions
 - Repeat what the child/adult has said
 - Avoid leading questions
 - Ask only what I need to know
 - Not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events, nor make them repeat 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 and make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion
 - Report my concerns immediately to the local Safeguarding Children Board who may advise contacting children's and family services.
 - Keep parents/carers informed of our actions if this is in the best interests of the child and if appropriate advise them to take their child to see a Doctor

Little Cubs Childminding, Wotton Under Edge

- If I am concerned about a child's welfare, I may contact the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's board, the NSPCC, the PACEY or other relevant support services for advice, providing this does not affect confidentiality

SEN/Disabilities

All children have the right to be supported equally. Children with disabilities have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes as child without disability. Children with disabilities require additional support because they experience greater risks and 'created vulnerability' as a result of negative attitudes about children with disabilities and equal access to services and resources, and because they may have additional needs relating to physical, sensory cognitive and/or communication impairments. I am aware of my additional responsibilities to children with disabilities.

The use of mobile phones and cameras

I understand that mobile phones are an everyday part of life for childminders and parents, with that in mind I have a procedure for their use:

I will ensure that my phone is fully charged and with me at all times incase of an emergency.

I do not use my phone to take photos, I will use a camera. I will seek parents permission to take photos of your child to record activities and share their progress with you.

Any photographs taken will be deleted after either emailing to the parent or printing for the child's learning journey.

I will not publish any photo of your child on any social networking site or share with any other person without your permission.

If your child has a mobile phone or camera they which to bring to the setting please let me know, so that we can work together to ensure the safety of all children.

I am registered with the Information Commisioners Office as a data controller.

Whistle-blowing Policy

For those in the home-based childcare workforce, 'whistle-blowing' means raising or reporting concerns relating to the welfare or safety of children and young people. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families in their everyday work has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All childminders, their assistants, students on placement or volunteers have a responsibility to report abuse and malpractice to the relevant authorities when it is suspected or if they have concerns regarding the way in which children are being cared for, no matter whom they will be reporting. They should be watchful for any illegal, inappropriate or unethical conduct and should report anything of that nature that they become aware of if there is a failure to meet Ofsted standards of registration or welfare requirements of the EYFS.

If the concern is relating to a safeguarding issue then the normal child protection flowchart procedures will be followed.

Advice can be sought via the NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) or through PACEY's Safeguarding Allegations and Complaints service, through which a referral can be made. Any concerns I have will be reported to the PACEY Network Co-ordinator and I will notify Ofsted and the Local Safeguarding Children Board / police immediately.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Written by Jodie McTear/July 2014/Little Cubs Childminding, Wotton Under Edge/reviewed Sept 2015