



Anne
Riggs
Childminding



Ofsted number: 117447

Safeguarding Children Policy

My first responsibility and priority is towards the children in my care. If I have any cause for concern I will report it, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The relevant local procedures that are held by me are available on request. I understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and neglectful, or a mixture of these. I must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse that are alleged to have taken place while the child is in my care.

I keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications. This helps me be aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if I have a concern.

A copy of "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused" is available for you to read if required. This sets out the guidelines for how I must record any incidents and disclosures and the procedures I must follow. I regularly check that I have the latest version of this (or any documents that may replace them in the future).

If I am concerned about a child's welfare, I will contact the local authority, the Children and Young Peoples' Services (CYPS) Safeguarding Children Team or other relevant support services for advice.

Child protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know this information.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded.

I work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent – please refer to my Working with Parents policy.

If I notice:

- significant changes in children's behaviour
- unexpected bruising or marks or signs of possible abuse
- any comments made which give me cause for concern
- deterioration in general wellbeing which causes concern
- signs of neglect

I will implement the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child. I will call the local social services' duty desk immediately, if it is known that a child is at risk of harm. I will follow it up with a letter within 48 hours. I will keep a factual record of the concern and will ask the parents for an explanation, providing it would not put the child at risk.



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The welfare requirements within the Children's Act 1989 and The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage requires that 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 repeat their account
- write down what I have been told using exact words where possible (however this will be as soon as possible after the child has finished speaking)
- explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child
- Inform the child that I cannot promise not to share this information but
- that everything I do will be in the interest of their safety
- make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion
- then report my concerns immediately to the duty social worker who has the experience and responsibility to make an assessment of the situation.

In all instances I will record:

- the child's full name and address
- the date, time, place and people present at the discussion
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present
- details of any previous concerns
- 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.

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

If an allegation Against me is made direct to Ofsted I will inform all parents and provide access to any correspondence concerning this.