

BEAMINSTER PLAYGROUP

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

AIMS

In our Playgroup we plan to provide an environment, which ensures children are safe from potential abuse and will respond to any suspicion of potential abuse in a way that respects the child's rights and reinforces the adults responsibilities to the children.

The Playgroup has a duty to report any suspicions around abuse to Children's Services and Ofsted and as such will seek their advice on all steps taken subsequently.

We follow the requirements set out in the Prevent Duty Guidance to ensure that children are protected from radicalisation, extremism and being drawn into terrorism. We promote British values throughout the setting and in all aspects of the children's learning and development. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead has undergone training and this information has been shared with all members of staff and the playgroup committee. Any concerns about a child will be reported to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

We will protect the children in our care and ensure they are safe from bullying. We will create an environment where children feel secure and safe and able to enjoy their time with us. All adults will build relationships with the children to ensure they feel able to seek help from the adults if they feel threatened.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

Children Act 1989

United Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991

Data Protection Act 1998

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Children Act 2004

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

PROCEDURES

We require all members of staff working in the playgroup to provide references and sign an agreement to be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (formerly Criminal Records Bureau).

We offer training through The Early Years and Childcare team for all members of staff on safeguarding children (formerly known as Child Protection Awareness Training).

We will work with the local Children's Social Care Team, police and other relevant agencies to ensure the child's best interests are met.

All details of concerns, progress, case conferences etc are confidential and will not be discussed with anyone not authorised to have this information.

We never allow a parent or student/volunteer who has not had the full DBS check to take a child to the toilet or be left unsupervised. (Unless the child is their own.)

All cases of concern are to be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (The Manager) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

All details of concerns, observations of a change in a child's behaviour or appearance, progress, case conferences etc are confidential and will not be discussed with anyone not authorised to have this information.

If bullying occurs we will:

- Act immediately
- Gather as much information about the incident as possible
- Talk things through calmly
- Inform the parents
- Work out a programme to support the child

PROCEDURES CONT

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A MEMBER OF STAFF OR VOLUNTEER:

Action will be taken under this heading if allegations of child abuse/neglect are made against a member of staff or volunteer working at the Group.

PROCEDURE:

- a. The concern will be discussed with the parent/main carer by the designated member of staff for child protection liaison. (The Manager)
- b. Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/main carer will have access to such records.
- c. The designated staff member will report the incident to their employer (e.g. owner, committee).
- d. The employer will need to decide how far to discuss it with the accused member of staff/volunteer without involving outside agencies, bearing in mind that an allegation of child abuse or neglect could lead to a criminal investigation, for example, ask a child a leading question or attempt to investigate the allegations of abuse.
- e. The employer may decide to contact the local Children's Social Care Team for guidance and follow their advice.
- f. The employer will need to decide whether to suspend the member of staff/volunteer pending investigations.
- g. If there appear to be any issues or concerns regarding the circumstances, Children's services and/or the police will be notified. The matter will also be reported to OFSTED and the LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children's Board April 2006)

Any concerns regarding a child's safety will be reported to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01202 228866 or by email to MASH@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk

For ongoing cases information will be reported to:

West Dorset Children's Social Care Team
Monkton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1SH

childrenwoodside@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk
01305 221450