

Child Protection Policy

The responsibility for child protection belongs to everyone and our first commitment is to the protection of all children.

It is the responsibility of all staff to immediately report any suspicions of neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse to the Play leader.

It is not always easy to distinguish accidental bruising or marks and most cases can be explained by changes in circumstances, illness or suck like.

However, generally bruising or injuries on knees, shins, elbows and possibly face and head are more likely to be stained as a consequence of a fall.

Injuries located on upper arms may suggest squeezing and on the buttocks, chest and stomach may suggest punching or slapping. Burns should always be reported, as should any bleeding, which may be as a result of a blow to the head or sexual abuse.

As a general guide staff should report any of the below:

- Changes in child's behaviour
- Suspicious bruises or marks
- Comments from children
- Deterioration in well being

The play leader will discuss with the duty committee member or chair the concerns they have. The play leader will express any concerns to the parent. Social services will be informed if necessary. The committee chair will be informed of all action taken. The issue is confidential between chair and play leader. To ensure the safety of the child, only those required to know will be told.

Accusations against staff, visitors or volunteers will, in the first instance, be reported to the play leader who will deal with them accordingly. The play leader will then contact the local Area Child Protection committee and OFSTED. The committee chair will be informed in strictest confidence.

Children have a right to protection and all staff has a responsibility for reporting concerns about a child's welfare or safety. The child is always put first and treated as an individual.