

Child protection policy

Precious Ones will create an environment where children are safe from all forms of abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse will be promptly and appropriately dealt with.

Through encouraging communication in play and giving opportunities to make choices we will enable children to gain self confidence and develop the vocabulary to express their feelings. This will help a child to resist inappropriate advances and/or enable them to discuss any matter causing upset.

The following are procedures upon suspicion of abuse:-

- If we have concerns about a child in our care or an allegation is made against us we will report it to our local social service department on :- in accordance with our local safeguarding childrens board procedures and to our ofsted regional office without delay. Ofsted:- 08456 40 40 40 (manchester) or Ofsted helpline 08456 01 47 71.
- We will make sure that any child protection concerns that could identify a child are kept confidential and only shared when it is essential to do so.
- The child will be the first concern. If there behaviour causes suspicion they will be listened to and reassured. We will help them to understand that they are valued and respected and not at fault.
- Change in behaviour and/or appearance will be investigated.
- Parents will usually be the first points of contact. If they cannot allay our anxieties then other agencies e.g. social services will be informed of the matter.
- In exceptional circumstances social services will be the first point of contact.

Any suspicion and subsequent investigations will be confidential (see confidentiality policy) and shared only with those who need to know.

Any working changes that are observed in a child's behaviour, physical condition or appearance will be confidentially and specifically recorded. This information will include the name, address and age of the child, plus the date and time of the observation. Any observations will be objective, describing the changes prompting this action and, where possible, the exact spoken words of the child. All information will include the name of the recorder and the date. In the event of a future investigation, this information will be shared with social services.

Where there is suspicion at home, we will continue to welcome the child and their family. It is important that we provide support for families when they need it and to continue that important partnership, building good relationships on the understanding that the care and safety of the children is paramount.

Louise Liggins
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Management
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