

# Safeguarding

## Information for early years and childcare providers

### Are you worried about a child in your care?

All childminders, staff and volunteers in day nurseries, pre-schools, crèches, out of school clubs and holiday schemes have an important part to play in helping parents care for their children.

Most children have minor accidental injuries, but there may be occasions when you are concerned about the nature or frequency of injuries.

Parents should be aware from your policy, introductory leaflets or posters, about what you will do if you have concerns about a child. The safety of children may include a duty to share confidential information with others involved in protecting a child.

In line with the Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board (HSCB) procedures, any concerns of this nature should be recorded, discussed with your manager and Lead Practitioner for Safeguarding (LPSG)/ Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and, where appropriate, reported to the Children's Services Social Care.

Children's Services will advise you what action, if any, needs to be taken. Any information shared by a provider may be part of a larger picture of abuse or neglect.

It is important that all Early Years and Childcare providers understand something about child abuse and neglect; and are familiar with the procedures of reporting abuse contained within their setting's policy.

Further guidance and training opportunities can be found on the following links:

- <https://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/report-a-concern/>
- <https://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/>
- <https://learningzone.hants.gov.uk/default.aspx>

### A few danger signs to look for and record

- Behaviour changes for no obvious reason.
- Bruising in unusual places, e.g. arms, stomach, mouth, head, back, eyes – especially two.

- Bruising in non-mobile children.
- Cigarette burns.
- Finger marks.
- Bite marks.
- Child not using leg or arm – it may have been broken by a blow.
- Inadequate clothing for the time of year.
- Weight loss or an unexplained increase in appetite.
- Parents with mental health, drug or alcohol issues.

Some signs may not be listed here but, if there are things that you notice about a child which make you feel concerned, it is your responsibility to share that information with your setting's LPSG/ DSL, and where appropriate, contact Children's Services Social Care.

### Whistleblowing

If a concern arises about a member of staff or a person in a position of trust, ensure that your LPSG/ DSL is informed immediately, and he/she will then contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). If the concern is about the LPSG/ DSL you should discuss this with your manager or contact the LADO directly.

**Every child has the right to be protected.  
It is everyone's responsibility to protect children.**

Know what's in your setting's policy and what procedures you should follow



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