

Safeguarding 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's 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 whilst the child is in my care.

Procedure [how I put the statement into practice]

I keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications [Pacey website, childminding newsletter and who minds]. This helps make sure I'm aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if I have a concern. I have copies of, and am familiar with, the local safeguarding children board procedures. Every 6 months I check that I have the latest version of the relevant procedures [or any documents that may replace them in the future]. I have a copy of the relevant booklets and guidance [as outlined in the Pacey booklet Safeguarding Children: a guide for childminders and nannies]. I have read them and understand them. I would follow the guidelines set out in the booklet "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused" [stored on computer] produced by the department for education. If I am concerned about a child's welfare, I will contact the local authority safeguarding team, the NSPCC, Pacey or other relevant support services for advice, and confidentiality will be assured only when it is clear that there is no risk of harm to the child. Child protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with the people who need to know. Parents/Carers must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any existing accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be documented and signed the same day. I will record any injuries noticed during childminding hours and will discuss this with you on your return. I will notify parents/carers of any concerns, accidents, incidents or injuries that occur whilst in my care. These will be recorded in writing, signed and dated the same day. I work together with parents/carers to make sure the care of their child is consistent, please refer to my working in partnership 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 well being which gives cause for concern
- signs of neglect

I will implement the local safeguarding children's board procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child.

- I will call the local children's social care team duty leader desk immediately if it is known that a child is at risk of harm.
- I will follow it up with a letter within 48hrs.
- I will keep a factual record of the concern and will ask the parents/carers for an explanation, providing it doesn't put the child at risk.

The regulations for registered childminders require me to inform Ofsted of any concerns that I have reported without delay.

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 will take their allegations seriously
- encourage the child to talk to me, but I will not prompt them with 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.
- I will explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- I will write down what I have been told using exact words where possible
- make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the time of discussion.
- report my concerns immediately to the duty social worker who has the experience and responsibility to assess the situation.

In all instances I will record;

- the child's full name and address
- the date and time of record
- factual details of the concern, e.g bruising, who was present and what the child said* details of any previous concerns
- details of any explanations from the parents/carers [if appropriate]
- any action taken such as speaking to parents/carers where appropriate

If an allegation is made against me, or a member of the household, I will report it to Ofsted and safeguarding team following the safeguarding children's board procedures. I will also contact Pacey's information line on 03000030005 for advice and support. It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

Mobile Phones

I use a mobile phone to store all contact details and I take it out with me at all times. I also use my phone to take photos of the children. All the parents have given permission for me to do this. This phone is only used for my personal and childminding purposes. I have read 'Working together to safeguard children' and stored it on my computer for future reference. For more detailed information please see my visitors policy.

Prevent Duty

As a childminder I have a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and radicalism. I will be alert to any issues or concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. I will encourage children to follow British values and offer support.