

The Signs Of Abuse

There are four categories of abuse:

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Emotional abuse

Neglect

Abuse is often well hidden and will not always be easy to identify. It is important that we are alert to the possibility of abuse and report concerns we may have. Symptoms of abuse are discussed in training for staff in Preschool to help us to recognise situations where it may be occurring.

Disclosure of abuse by a child

If you are approached by a child wanting to talk, you should listen positively and reassure the child. If you can, try and ensure a degree of privacy. Whilst this can be an alarming situation to find yourself in, it is important not to let the moment pass – for every child that does finally disclose information, evidence shows that they have usually tried up to 12 times before.

Helping The Child When Abuse Is Disclosed

Be prepared to listen and comfort

Do not show revulsion or distress, however distasteful the events are

Stay calm and controlled

Do not make false promises. i.e that you will keep the abuse a secret or that the police will not be involved

Do not promise confidentially

Let the child know at once that it was not his/her fault and keep restating this

Reassure the child that you still care for them and that what they have said does not make you care for them less

As soon as possible write a first hand account of what was said and done

Be aware of your own feelings about abuse and find someone you can share these with once the procedures have been completed

Make the child aware that their disclosure will be reported only to those who need to know and can help

Do not question a child. Try to limit your involvement to listening. Remember that it is not your responsibility to investigate suspected cases of abuse, only to report them to a designated child protection person



Safeguarding Children Procedures

An information leaflet for staff, visitors and volunteers to Preschool

Safeguarding children lies at the heart of everything we do in Preschool. Safeguarding refers to the work we do with our children to keep them safe when they are in Preschool and when they are in the wider community. It encompasses the support we give or access to enable every young person to achieve their full potential. Safeguarding is also included in our work on child protection, ensuring that we act appropriately if we have concerns that a child may be suffering significant harm or is at risk of suffering such harm.

If you are concerned about the well being of a child you should always report this. Do not delay in reporting a concern.

Designated person for Safeguarding:

Sam Hall is the designated person for safeguarding in Preschool. This means that all concerns should be reported to her. If she is not available to discuss your concerns, you should speak to a member of the senior management team.



Your Responsibilities

Any adult in Preschool, as well as every member of staff has a responsibility to keep children safe.

This involves:

Listening carefully to children if they wish to discuss concerns with you

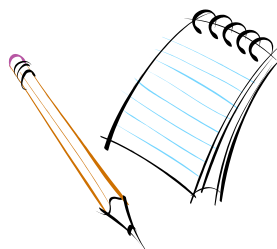
Challenging unsafe practice in Preschool

Sharing any concerns you have about a child's welfare with the designated person

Maintaining a professional relationship with children at all times

Treating others with respect; shouting and 'finger pointing' are rarely necessary or appropriate

Never promise confidentiality to a child



If it isn't written down, there is no evidence. Record and report all concerns promptly.

Guidance For Reporting Information

You should record your concerns on paper as soon as possible and any note should include the following:

The nature of your concerns

What evidence led to your concerns

What the child said (if a discussion has taken place) using the child's own words

What you did or said in response (if a discussion has taken place)

Dated and signed by yourself



It may be that you have a concern which feels very vague and you would simply like to discuss your concerns with a designated Child Protection person. Please feel free to do so.

Telephone number for MASH
(Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

0300 500 80 80 (public)
0300 500 80 90 (professional)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash>