



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy statement:

As an Ofsted registered childminder, I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for my setting.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a key individual in an organization responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of children, particularly in educational settings.

Roles and Responsibilities

Leading Safeguarding Efforts: The DSL has overall responsibility for developing, implementing, and reviewing safeguarding policies and procedures within the organisation. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities regarding child protection.

First Point of Contact: The DSL acts as the first point of contact for anyone with concerns about a child's safety, including staff, volunteers, parents, and the children themselves. They assess reported concerns and determine the appropriate course of action.

Making Referrals: If a child is believed to be at risk of harm, the DSL is responsible for making referrals to the appropriate social services or child protection agencies.

Supporting Staff: The DSL provides guidance and support to other staff members on safeguarding issues, including training on how to identify and report child abuse.

Maintaining Records: Keeping accurate and up to date records of all safeguarding concerns is a critical responsibility of the DSL. This ensures that there is a clear history of any issues that arise.

When working **with** other childminders, I understand that I have a shared responsibility for the well-being of **all** the children present in my care.

My first responsibility and priority is towards the children in my care. If I have any cause for concern, I will report it to the relevant bodies and liaise with local statutory children's services (known as Safeguarding Partners) as appropriate following the local procedures. The name of our Safeguarding Partners is Essex Education Safeguarding Team and the Family Hub and the Safeguarding Partners procedures can be found at www.eycp.essex.gov.uk.

I understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, domestic, or a mixture of these, and am aware of the signs and symptoms of these.



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PREVENT

The Prevent legislation in the UK is part of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, aimed at stopping individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It requires specified authorities, such as education, health, and local authorities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The legislation outlines the responsibilities of these authorities to help mitigate the risk of radicalization.

Statutory guidance is provided for the implementation of the Prevent duty, ensuring that relevant bodies understand their obligations. The legislation emphasizes a collaborative approach to counter-terrorism, involving various sectors to address the issue effectively.

The aim of Prevent is to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

The Channel Panel is a Home Office intervention multi agency panel set up to help stop pre radicalisation and look at individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism (Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP)) is part of the prevent strategy.

Part of my role is to be aware and prevent children being drawn into terrorism. Safeguarding Level 3 training ensures I know the signs and indicators of extremism or radicalisation. If I have any concerns, I will contact the Prevent Officer in my local area educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk and my Safeguarding Partners as above.

The Department for Education telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) enables staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

ONLINE SAFETY

I have a responsibility to keep children safe online and have read and understand the [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety guidance for practitioners](#)



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Children in my setting are never on the computer. We watch educational videos in my presence but they are never left alone with any type of computer, laptop, mobile phone or other electronic device where they may be put at risk.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

I must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse that are alleged to have taken place while the child is in my care, including any allegations against me, or anyone living, working or looking after children at the premises from which the childcare/childminding is provided.

I must also ensure that no individual who is unsuitable to work with children has unsupervised access to a child in my care. I have read and understand the safeguarding and welfare requirements of Early years' foundation stage statutory framework for [childminders/for group and school-based providers]. I have also read the national statutory guidance document [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) and [What to do if you are Worried a Child is being Abused - Advice for Practitioners](#).

I have also read and understand the Ofsted safeguarding guidance in the [Early years inspection handbook](#), and the documents [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services](#) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

I keep up to date with safeguarding issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications, for example, Childcare Professional, or Nursery World. Copies of my safeguarding training certificate is on display on my notice board and available upon request.

I follow the procedures outlined in my Confidentiality policy. I aim to share all information with parents but in some instances (where I am worried about a child's wellbeing) I may have to refer concerns without discussing this with you.

I work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent – please refer to my Working with parents' policy.

Children will only be released from my care to the parent/carer or to someone named and authorised by them. A password agreed between us might be used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to me. In any event, if I am unsure of the identity of anyone collecting your child, I will ring the parent/carer to check before allowing the child to leave my care. Children will not be released into the care of anyone that I have reason to believe is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child, and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which I will record and ask parents to sign.



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Unless I believe that it would put the child at risk of further harm, I will discuss concerns with a child's parent if I notice:

- significant changes in children's behaviour.
- deterioration in children's general well-being.
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect.
- children's or parents' comments which give cause for concern, including expressing extremist views.
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home; and/or inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any person working with children. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or inappropriate sharing of images.

I will ensure I have at least three relevant contacts for the child, so that I have alternative contact details in the case of unexpected absences.

Please ring or message me if you are running late or your child will not be attending their usual contracted hours.

Where the child fails to attend unexpectedly, after 1 hour I will

1. Contact parents/carers
2. If no contact is made contact the named alternative/emergency contacts

If I fail to make contact as outlined in steps 1 and 2 I will:

3. Initiate my safeguarding partnership procedures by contacting Children's Services or the police.

I have a legal duty to safeguard children and make my concerns known because there may have been an accident or unexpected event.

Where a family has a social worker, and the child stops attending my setting I am legally obliged to inform their social worker. For all children, I have the duty to monitor attendance as outlined in my Attendance policy.

I recognise the additional barriers that exist when recognising the signs of abuse and neglect of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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 take their allegations seriously.



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- Encourage the child to talk, but I will not prompt them 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.
- Explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Record 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 discussion.

I will call the local social services' duty desk for advice and an assessment of the situation.

I will follow this phone call up with a letter to the Duty team within 48 hours. I will record the concern and all contact with Children's Services thereafter.

If an allegation is made against me, any member of my family, or any other adult or child in my setting I will report it to Ofsted and the Local Authority designated officer or team of officers, following local procedures. I will also contact PACEY's Helpline on 0300 003 0005 for advice and support.

In all instances I will record:

- the child's full name and address
- the date and time of the record
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present
- details of any previous concerns
- details of any explanations from the parents
- any action taken, such as speaking to parents.

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

ELETRONIC DEVICES

I understand that mobile phones and other electronic devices are an everyday part of life for parents and childminders and with that in mind have laid out my procedure for their use:

- I will ensure my mobile phone is charged and with me at all times in case of emergencies.
- I have the facility to take photographs on both my mobile phone and camera [and any other devices that you use that have imaging capabilities] and will seek your permission to take any photographs of your child to record activities and share their progress with you and to take photographs of accidental injuries your child sustains under my care in order for you as the parent to make any decisions you deem necessary with regards your

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child, enable us to show any health care professional the injury in emergencies and allow us to keep a copy of the photograph on the medical records held for your child in the setting.

- Any photographs taken will be stored, used, and deleted in accordance with my data protection and privacy policies.
- I will not publish any photographs of your child on any social networking sites or share with any other person without your permission.

I request that you do not use your mobile phone or other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities whilst dropping off and collecting your child/children.

Any visitors to the setting will also be asked not to use their mobile phone or other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities.

If your child has a mobile phone, games console etc. with camera or recording facilities or other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, that they wish to bring into the setting please let me know. They will not be able to use it in the setting.

This is so that we can work together for the safety of all children in attendance and ensure appropriate access to material when using the internet.

GDPR

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR I have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a data controller to allow me to store digital images on an SD card device/computer.

If/when I recruit any assistants, my procedure to check the suitability of new recruits is as follows:

- I will make check to confirm their identity
- I will obtain a reference before employment commences
- I will obtain a DBS through Ofsted or my CMA
- I will ensure that their safeguarding training meets the criteria in Annex C of the EYFS and is in date. I will also provide them with support, advice, and guidance on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required.
- I will ensure that assistants disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings that may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at my setting).



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OTHER

I will be using a daily observation sheet to monitor the children in terms of their appearance, injuries, illness, medication etc. this is to detect early patterns of behaviour that may be detrimental to the children. I need to ensure that the children are well, alert and not displaying any signs of distress when they attend my setting. It will bring to light constant illness, lack of sleep etc. which parents may need a bit of advice or support with.

Through the Safeguarding Level 3 training I am aware of Disguised compliance/Compliant neglect which is a term used to describe the behaviour of parents or carers who appear to co-operate with professionals in order to allay concerns and stop professional engagement. In terms of Childminders, we are not medically trained but through parenting and doing the job for a number of years we do have experience and can offer advice and support around ensuring children have a consistent routine, get plenty of sleep etc. in the home. This is important as we have to deal with unacceptable behaviours during the day when things are not in place at home.

Our duty is to speak to you but if we feel our concerns are not being acknowledged, we will contact the Essex Children and Family hub.

Useful contacts

Essex Police Prevent Team : 01245 452 196

Children's & Family Hub: 0345 603 7627

Essex LADO: 03330 139 797

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

This policy should be read in conjunction with my:

- Attendance policy
- Working with parents
- Confidentiality policy
- Accident and emergency policy
- Failure to collect child procedure
- Whistleblowing policy and procedure

Date policy was written	27 January 2026
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This policy is due for review on the following date	27 th January 2027
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This policy supports the following Early years foundation stage statutory framework for childminders requirements:

Section 3 – Safeguarding and welfare requirements

- Safeguarding policies and procedures
- Concerns about children's safety and welfare
- Suitable people
- Training, support and skills
- Information and record keeping