# Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

At My Childcare and Me, our first responsibility and priority is towards the children in our care. If we have any cause for concern we will report it to the relevant bodies, following the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) procedures.

The name of our LSCB is Lewisham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and the LSCP procedures can be found at <https://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lscp/lscp>

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

We must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse that are alleged to have taken place while the child is in My Childcare and Me settings, including any allegations against any members of staff.

We have read, and understand, the safeguarding and welfare requirements of EYFS.

We have also read the national statutory guidance document, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

We keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications.

We follow the procedures outlined in our confidentiality policy. We aim to share all information with parents but in some instances (where we are worried about a child’s well-being) we may have to refer concerns without discussing this with you. My Childcare and Me Nursery work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent.

Children will only be released from our care to the parent/carer or to someone named and authorised by them. A password is used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to us.

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

**Unless we believe that it would put the child at risk of further harm, we 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 comments which give cause for concern;
* any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child’s home;
* 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.

If a child tells us that they or another child is being abused, we will:

* show that we have heard what they are saying, and that we take their allegations seriously;
* encourage the child to talk, without prompting them or asking them leading questions. We will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account;
* explain what actions we must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child;
* record what we have been told using exact words where possible;
* make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.

Our Director Jade Ashman will call the local social services’ duty desk for advice and an assessment of the situation. We will follow up this phone call with a letter to the Duty Team within 48 hours. We will record the concern and all contact with Children’s Services thereafter.

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy Cont.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff at My Childcare and Me, our director Jade Ashman will report it to Ofsted/my Childminding Agency and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), following the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

**In all instances we 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 our responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation ourselves.**

At My Childcare and Me we understand that there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with all safeguarding issues, we will be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

The Prevent Duty does not require childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life, but with as with any safeguarding risk, we will take appropriate action if any behaviour causes concern.

**British Values**

As a nursery, we can also build children’s resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

We will provide suitable opportunities which encourage children to respect each other’s views and values, to understand that their views count, and to talk about their feelings. Activities will involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children will be encouraged to understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences. They will have an input in creating rules and codes of behaviour. An ethos of total acceptance of all views, faiths, cultures and races will be created, where children will appreciate and respect their own and others’ cultures.

**Whistle Blowing**

In our role as childcare providers we have a duty to report unacceptable behaviour to the relevant authorities; including that of assistants who may be working with us, childcare workers and other professionals working with children. This action is necessary when their actions are detrimental to children, have placed a child at risk, caused actual harm to a child or are clearly illegal.

We will follow the listed procedure if I suspect any of the above has taken place:

* Identify the bad practice;
* Record exactly what was observed;
* Establish witnesses wherever possible;
* Keep copies of all correspondence and relevant information;
* Seek support from colleagues;
* Ask to be informed about the outcome.

In these situations we may need to contact the police, social workers, the care inspectorate and any other relevant bodies, then pass on any information known to us.

**Useful numbers**

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| Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Lewisham 020 8314 9181Emergency Police 999/112Ofsted 0300 123 1231Whistleblowing Hotline (8am – 6pm) 0300 123 3155Email whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.ukNSPCC helpline 0800 800 500Email help@nspcc.org.uk |