

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

My responsibility as a childminder is to ensure the safety and welfare of all the children in my care in line with the procedures laid out by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

I have received training on Safeguarding Children and am aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, physical, emotional and sexual, and those of neglect.

If I have reason to believe that any child in my care is being abused in any way I will report the matter to First Response as advised by Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board. Under these circumstances I will not be able to keep information relating to your child confidential, but will need to share it with Ofsted, First Response (Social Services) and the Police if requested.

To protect myself and my family from any allegations being made against us; any accidents, incidents or injuries occurring whilst in my care will be recorded in my accident, incident and medication record book. I will also ask that any injury occurring outside my care is reported to me on arrival. You will be asked to sign a form to acknowledge you have informed me.

I must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse, which are alleged to have taken place while the child is in my care. This includes any person who is working or living at the premises. I must notify Ofsted of these allegations as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the very latest within 14 days of the allegation made.

I will keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training. This will help me keep aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if I have concern.

Child protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with persons who need to know this information.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they may have about their child and any accidents or incidents affecting the child, which I will then need to record.

If I notice:

- Any significant changes in behaviour,
- Unexpected bruising or marks,
- Any comments, which will give me, cause for concern or deterioration in general well being which causes me concern.
- Or if a child tells me that they or another child is being abused,

I will

- Show that I heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously
- Encourage the child to talk, but 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.

It is my duty as a childminder to report any form of abuse to Social Care.

If an allegation is made against me, I will report it to Ofsted and Social Care following the Safeguarding Children Board procedures in England.

ABI Childminding

Alison Wheeler

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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.