

Safeguarding Policy

Child Protection

The purpose of this policy is to provide protection for all children in my care — this is my first responsibility and they are my priority. Outlined is the procedure I will adopt if I have any cause for concern, including how – if necessary – I will make a referral to the children’s safeguarding team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH).

I understand that child abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, neglectful or a mixture of these. I must notify MASH and I am required to record my concerns. I hold a copy of the relevant local procedures and they are available on request.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded.

If I notice:

- Significant changes in the child’s behaviour;
- Unexpected bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse;
- Comments that give me cause for concern;
- Deterioration in general wellbeing that cause concern; or
- Signs of neglect.

I will implement the procedure detailed below without delay to minimise any risk to the child.

The following procedure will be undertaken in the event that I suspect a child is at risk of harm:

- Concerns will be discussed with parents, if appropriate.
- Advice will be sought from MASH (0161 603 4500 – or 0161 794 8888 out of hours)
- The “Referral to Children’s Services” form will be completed (<http://www.salford.gov.uk/secureupload.htm>)
- Once this referral is received, RIAT (Referral & Initial Assessment Team) will take responsibility and decide the necessary steps to ensure the safety of the child.
- In the event of an emergency, I will contact the police.

All information about the child is kept confidential, however in certain situations, this information may be shared with MASH, RIAT or the police.

Allegations of Abuse

In the event of an allegation being made against the childminder – or any other adult living in the childminder’s home – The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be informed immediately. All allegations will be investigated independently by the LADO and will also be reported to Ofsted.

In all instances, I will record:

- The child's full name and address;
- The date and time the record is being made;
- Factual details of the concern, for example: bruising, what the child said and who was present;
- Details of any previous concerns;
- Details of any explanations from the parents; and
- Any action taken, such as speaking to parents.

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

Mobile Phones and Social Networking

It is in the safety of the children in the childminder's care that the childminder is in possession of a mobile phone at all times. This is to be used to contact parents in the event of an emergency. The mobile phone will not be used to take photographs of the child; these will all be taken on the digital camera. This camera will be available for the parent to view at any time, without appointment. For the safety of other children in my care, I request that parents do not use their mobile phones within the setting.

I will not post any photos or details of any children in my care on any social network.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Ofsted	08456 404040
LADO	0161 603 4328
MASH	0161 603 4500 (Out of hours 0161 794 8888)
Starting Life Well	0161 909 6508

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	

Child's Name	Parent's Name	Signature	Date

Date: 07/06/2014