

CHEDDINGTON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN (CHILD PROTECTION) POLICY

Statement of intent

Cheddington Baby and Toddler Group is a group of Parents/Carers who meet together with their children. We are committed to working with children and their parents/carers to ensure the safety of the children who come to the Group.

This policy is based on the fact that the children at the Group are brought by and supervised by their own parent/carer.

This policy has been guided by the recommendations of the Buckinghamshire County Council Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS).

Please also refer to our Health and Safety Policy and Policy on Volunteers.

Aims

To ensure parents/carers are aware of this policy.

To give parents/carers information so that they can decide on the best way to respond to concerns about the safety of a child in an appropriate way.

To ensure that any volunteers at the Group who are not parents/carers are CRB checked.

To promote at the Group a child's right to be safe and protected from abuse, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs and home background.

Methods

Volunteers who are not parents/carers are informed of the need to carry out a check with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Where volunteers are asked not to help at the Group because of information that has been disclosed following this check, they have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information.

Any volunteer who is not a parent/carer does not have unsupervised access to the children.

A record is kept of visitors to the Group.

A Committee member sits at the entrance door and parents/carers are asked to register when they arrive, to prevent any unauthorised people gaining access to the children.

A member of the Committee attends every meeting and helps to set up the room (door security gate etc).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms – physical, emotional, sexual and neglect. When children are suffering from abuse this may be demonstrated through the things that they say or do, or through changes in their appearance.

Where children are made to suffer physical pain there may be signs of frequent unexplained injuries.

Where children are harmed because of lack of affection or love, they can become withdrawn or depressed.

Where adults seek sexual gratification from children, there may be changes in personality and children may begin to talk in a sexual manner that is totally unsuitable for their age.

Signs that a child's basic needs are not being met (food, clothing etc) may result in a child showing signs of ill health.

HELPLINES AND SOURCES OF FURTHER SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

The following information is given so that if parents/carers are concerned about the wellbeing of a child they can talk it through with someone who has some knowledge of what to do.

Bucks County Council Customer Services	0845 3708090 ask for the Duty Social Worker
For Social Care Emergencies	01494 675802 (out of hours)
	0800 137 915 (Social Services Careline)
NSPCC (24hrs helpline)	0808 800 5000
National Childminders Assoc. helpline	0800 169 4486
Advice from EYCS	0800 3283317
	01296 382824
Child Protection and Sexual Crime Unit	01628 816935

