

The Jungle Day Nursery & Cheeky Monkeys Nursery Ltd

Policy No 36-02

Child Protection – Principles & Management of Abuse

This policy defines the procedures to be followed upon where it is alleged or suspected, or has been discovered, that a child has been abused by a third party.

1. Principles of child protection:

Nursery management is committed to the following principles regarding the abuse of a child:

It is recognised that abuse can and does occur in society, & this may take the following forms:

- verbal abuse/ threats
 - emotional abuse
 - physical abuse
- racial/ sectarian abuse
 - sexual abuse

The fundamental responsibility of the nursery is to ensure the welfare & protection of the child, & that every child in our care has the right to freedom from abuse. It is therefore the policy at the nursery that any staff member who does not possess a valid and current CRB disclosure certificate is never left alone with a child.

All staff will receive appropriate training at the induction stage in abuse of the child. This training will focus upon the types of abuse, the signs and symptoms involved, and the appropriate action to be taken. The nursery manager has received specific training in child protection & is the nursery's named person in liaison with child protection agencies.

With respect to sources of abuse, nursery recognises the following:

The management procedures and arrangements are designed so that all possible measures are taken to ensure that abuse of a child does not occur as a result, either directly or indirectly, of any activities provided by the nursery.

Where it is suspected that a child has suffered abuse in the hands of a third party the nursery has a duty to report these suspicions to the Local Authority, & will follow the procedures set down in the Local Authority Child Protection Policies.

For the purpose of this policy abuse will be classified into the following 4 categories:

- physical injury
 - emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
 - neglect

2. Involvement

It is the underlying policy of the nursery that the safety, well being and protection of the child is paramount. Procedures require that any injuries or illnesses that a child has suffered, whether at home or at nursery, are recorded. Where there is a serious concern, for example where abuse is suspected, this will be reported immediately to the nursery manager, who will review the evidence & take the appropriate action. Such action may include the involvement of social services child protection team, & in all cases issues & concerns are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

It is the policy of the nursery's to involve the child's family/ guardians/ carers at all stages unless it is considered, at the discretion of the nursery manager, that it is not in the child's best interests & the child could be exposed to further risk.

Where suspected abuse is linked to a member of the family/ guardian / carer, the nursery will continue to deal with the family, affording them to the usual level of respect & offering them support wherever it is possible. This may include the manager giving the main unsuspected parent/guardian/carer their out of office contact number, should they feel it is appropriate to do so.

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Where suspected abuse is linked with allegations of malpractice by a staff member. Policy no's 36-04 (allegations against a staff member) and 36-06 (whistle blowing) will be invoked.

Specific procedures

Physical injury:

Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratches/cuts/bite marks/ pinch marks inconsistent with normal play activities
- burns/ scolds inconsistent with explanations offered
- bruises in body areas not usual harmed through normal play activities
- bruises indicative of slaps, punches, being squeezed or violently shaken
- bruises suggesting the use of straps or sticks
- nervous/ fearful watchfulness; fear of physical contact by adults
- Unexplained fractures.

Action to be taken:

Any sign of a mark or injury noticed when the child comes to the nursery will be recorded, and discussed with the main parent/ guardian/ carer. These discussions will also be recorded, ensuring that the parent/ guardian/ carer is provided access to these records. If explanations are judged to be unsatisfactory, the local authority child protection officer will be informed.

Sexual Abuse

Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratching/ soreness/ unexplained rashes in the genital areas
- stained/ bloodstained underclothes
- bruises on inner thighs and buttocks
- discomfort when sitting or walking
- constant wetting or soiling of clothing
- Suggestion of undue sexual awareness through play, drawings or use of inappropriate words.

Action to be taken:

All observations will be reported immediately to the local authority Child protection officer.

Emotional Abuse:

Signs and symptoms will include:

- undue aggression or withdrawal
- constant wetting or soiling of clothing
- poor language development/ speech disorders such as stammering or stuttering
- inability to relate to adults or other children
- telling lies
- tantrums beyond the age where they would be expected as normal development

Action to be taken:

Any concerns will be discussed with the main parent/ guardian/ carer. These discussions will be recorded, ensuring that the parent/ guardian/ carer is provided access to these records. If explanations are judged to be unsatisfactory, the local authority child protection officer will be informed.

Important Telephone numbers:

- Social services department - 01246347777
- Emergency duty service – 01773728222
- OFSTED Inspection line – 0845601477
- OFSTED Complaints line - 08456014772

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