



ST GEORGE'S PRE-SCHOOL HINTON ST GEORGE

Website: <http://saintgeorgespreschool.co.uk>

Child Protection information for Staff

Are you worried about a child in your care?

All childminders, staff and volunteers running day nurseries, pre-school groups, crèches, out-of-school clubs and holiday schemes have an important part to play in helping parents care for their children. They can work with parents during times of stress offering support and respite.

Most children are subject to minor accidental injuries, but there may be occasions when you are concerned about the nature or frequency of injury. If you are concerned, you should raise the matter immediately with the designated member of staff for child protection liaison. They will then discuss the concerns with the parents/carers of the child unless it is believed that such discussion would place the child at risk of significant harm.

Any concerns of this nature should be reported by the designated staff member for child protection liaison to the local social care and health office promptly where staff will advise them and can decide what action, if any, needs to be taken. The information provided by a day carer may be part of a larger picture of abuse or neglect.

Remember that an allegation of child abuse or neglect could lead to a criminal investigation so do not do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, for example, ask a child leading questions or attempt to investigate the allegations of abuse.

Parents should be aware from your introductory leaflets, letters or posters that you are obliged to inform Childrens Social Care of any concern you may have that a child may be at risk or has been abused. The safety of children may include a duty to share confidential information with others involved in protecting children.

It is important that day care workers understand something about child abuse and neglect, and are familiar with the procedures for reporting abuse (refer to Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance booklet). If you are in any doubt your Childcare Advisor in your area will be happy to talk it over with you.

A few danger signs to look out for and write down

- 1 Behaviour changes for no obvious reason.
- 2 Bruising in unusual places ie arms, stomach, around the mouth, head and back.
- 3 Finger marks ie each finger may mark or bruise the skin.
- 4 Bite marks

- 5 Child not using a leg or arm , it may have been broken by a blow
- 6 Inadequate clothing for the time of year.
- 7 Weight loss or an unexplained increase in appetite

However, the most important signs may not be those listed above, but things that you notice about a child that you know well, that make you feel concerned and uneasy. In such cases you should feel confident in the experience you have of working closely with children, and tell the designated staff member for child protection liaison who will then telephone the Children's Social Care duty social worker.

Take action by telephoning your local Children's Social Care Office at:
Address:

Somerset County Council
County Hall
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 4DY

Tel No: 0845 345 9122

Your designated staff member for child protection liaison should confirm your referral in writing within 48hours and Children's Social Care Office should acknowledge receipt within 1 working day, so if you have not heard within 3 working days you should contact Children's Social Care office again.

This Policy was updated and re-adopted by the committee members of St George's Pre-school at a Policy Meeting held on 10th March 2009

Helen Harding (Chair)

Alison McNee (Secretary).....