

Safeguarding policy 2023 - 2024

Here at Little Acorns I am committed to providing a safe and secure environment for each child. I want them to feel valued, respected and safe at all times. This is in my setting and when we are out and about.

I will ensure each child is:

- Protected from mistreatment
- Safe from bullying, racism, sexism and all forms of harm
- Free to play and interact with other children in a safe environment
- Safe from extremism and radicalisation

Children are free to talk to me about anything and my safeguarding training has taught me to listen without prejudice and to not ask leading questions. If I have any concerns I will contact the parents and if I don't feel this is in the best interests of the child then I will contact the relevant authority. I take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well being of each child in my care, whether that is in the setting or out and about. No child is left alone with any other adult and any visitors to the setting are vetted and allowed in if I feel the safety of the children can be maintained. For example if a parent turns up drunk or under the influence of drugs I may have to prevent them from coming into the setting or handing over their child. If I need to, I will call either the safe-guarding team or the police as a last resort.

The setting is laid out so that all children can be safely supervised. Nobody is left indoors if we go out to play and no child is allowed to play outside unsupervised. When it's time to eat we all sit round the table together and nobody is left eating on their own. When someone needs a nap they are placed in a safe place agreed by parents and this can be a travel cot or a bed on the floor. They are checked on regularly and not left alone for long periods. We don't play outside if someone is asleep in the house. All food is prepared so there are no choking hazards such as grapes and the toys are all safe for the ages they are used for, such as no marbles or small pieces of lego.

When we are out in the car car seats appropriate to their age and size are used, as are child locks. Children that cannot or don't want to walk will be in a pushchair and other children may be connected to me via a wrist link or body straps.

If I suspect a child is a victim of FGM, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or harm then it is my responsibility and mine alone to report this, and I will.

If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult you can contact Norfolk County Council Children's Services LADO team - they can be contacted on (01603) 223473