

Tiddlywinkers Day Nursery **Policy on Child Protection**

Purpose of Policy

At Tiddlywinkers Day Nursery we work with the children, parents, external agencies and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped, to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form. We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. Within Tiddlywinkers we strive to protect children from the risk of abuse and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures. Child protection is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this policy must be used in conjunction with Tiddlywinkers other policies and procedures.

Policy Intention

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Create a safe and secure environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image by keeping the child at the centre of all we do
- Always listen to children
- Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct
- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development
- Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures and communities
- Help children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making and how to promote values through play, discussion and role modelling
- Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate

The designated child protection officers for Tiddlywinkers Day Nursery are Christie Bell - 02894 467847 and Kristina Fryers (deputy) 02894 467868

Procedure

Tiddlywinkers aims to:

- Ensure staff are trained to understand the child protection policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse, understand what

is meant by child protection and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children through bullying or discriminatory behaviour

- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local/national procedures
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child, share information and seek the help that the child may need
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Children
- Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know in order to protect the child and act in their best interests
- Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of serious harm or abuse against any person working with children
- Ensure parents/carers are fully aware of child protection policies and procedures when they register with Tiddlywinkers and are kept informed of all updates when they occur
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements

Contact Address and Telephone Numbers

Early Years Team
“Raphael House”
118 Fenaghy Road
Galgorm
BT43 5BS
Tel: 02825 635110

Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Children
Tel: 02894 424459 (9am-5pm)
0300 1234333 (9am-5pm)
02895 049999 (after 5pm)

Non-Emergency Police – 101
Antrim Police Station – 0845 600 8000

Responding appropriately to suspicions of abuse

- Staff will share concerns with the Designated Child Protection Officer, accurate written details will be recorded of the suspicions or concerns and they will be kept in the locked filing cabinet in the Manager’s office, the

Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Children Team will be contacted for advice on the matter and the Early Years Team will be informed

- Check with parents to explain unexplained bruises, marks or changes in behaviour. Discussing delicate matters like this should be handled in a non-threatening way by the Designated Child Protection Officer
- The Designated Child Protection Officer will inform the Duty Officer at the Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Children
- If a child is already known to Social Services, direct contact will be made with their Social Worker and the Early Years Team
- Parents will be informed of the referral in consultation with the Early Years Team/Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Childcare.
- Staff will make a written record of the concern
- The Proprietor will be informed that a referral has been made to Single Point of Entry for Referrals to Children
- The Designated Child Protection Officer for Tiddlywinkers will attend all Child Protection Case Conferences with Social Services
- All records will be kept until the child's 21st birthday due to the possibility of legal action
- Christie Bell is the Designated Child Protection officer and Kristina Fryers is her Deputy

