



Recognising signs of abuse

The Little Bookham & Effingham Preschool management team and the DSL ensure that all members of staff are informed and made aware of the possible signs of abuse in children and also ensure all staff members are aware of identifying inappropriate behaviour displayed by adults in the setting

The following definitions are taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* HM Government (2018). In addition to these definitions, it should be understood that children can also be abused by being sexually exploited, honour-based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation. To support the local context, all staff have access to the Effective Family Resilience & Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Levels of Need document

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur in isolation.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including online).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of a child’s emotional needs.

Inappropriate behaviour displayed by adults

This includes:

- In-appropriate sexual comments
- Excessive one to one attention beyond the requirement of their role and responsibility
- In-appropriate sharing of images

The staff team understand that having one of these indicators above does not mean a child is at risk, however if staff notice multiple or persistent signs, the DSL will contact the LADO and C-SPA for advice and or police immediately

Child on Child abuse

Staff should understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between children and young people. Staff should also recognise that downplaying certain behaviours as “just banter” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment for children and young people and a culture that normalises abuse. Staff should understand that even if there are no reports of peer-on-peer abuse in their school, this doesn’t mean it is not happening. If staff have any concerns about peer-on-peer abuse, they should speak to the DSL or DDSL

Online Bullying and Child Exploitation

Bullying and child exploitation (CE) can take place on social networking sites, online gaming or by use of mobile phones. Although these indicators are less likely to be seen in preschool age children, children may disclose this information about older siblings.

Possible Indicators of Child Exploitation (CE)

- Children appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions,
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation,
- Children who may have a 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.
- Children who become secretive.
- Child exploitation may include children who are in a gang, drug/gun runners, drug dealers, involved in money laundering

FGM

The DSL and Little Bookham & Effingham Preschool team understands that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an illegal, extremely harmful practice and is a form of abuse and violence against women and girls. If a disclosure, concern or allegation is made, the DSL will follow the settings safeguarding procedure. If FGM is suspected the DSL will report this immediately to the police (Mandatory Reporting of FGM, 2015).

Forced Marriages

The DSL and Little Bookham & Effingham Preschool team understands that Forced Marriages (FM) is when a marriage is carried out without the consent of both people. If a disclosure, concern or allegation is made by a preschool parent/carer and or staff member the DSL will follow the settings safeguarding procedure.

The DSL can also contact the Forced Marriages Unit on: 200 7008 0151

Honour Based Violence

Honour Based Violence (HBV) is a violent crime or incident that can affect a whole family and community. If a disclosure, concern or allegation is made by a preschool parent/carer and or staff member the DSL will follow the settings safeguarding procedure.