



Little
muddy me

Forest school Safeguarding Children Policy

Key contact personnel in the setting

Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Persons: Victoria Egarr and Liana Cook.

Forest School Level 3 leaders Victoria Egarr and Elena Beale

Contact details for Education Safeguarding Team and LADO

The LADO receives concerns, complaints and referrals regarding the conduct of adult professionals or volunteers working with children, not child protection referrals. Child Protection referrals are made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Early years Team: 01628 796684 / 01628 796534 RBWM MASH: 01628 683150 Slough Referral & Assessment: 01753 506418 / 01753 506420 Reading MASH: 01189 373641 Bucks CC: 0845 4600001 or 01296 383962 Out of Hours Duty Team: 01344 786543 RBWM LADO Team contact number: 01628 685325 (Sharon Richards)

Police: 999 / 101 NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Parentline plus: 0808 800 2222 Ofsted Whistle blowing hotline: 0300 1233155 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm) NSPCC Whistle blowing helpline: 0800 0280285

The contents of this forest school safeguarding policy must be used in conjunction with Little Me Pre-Schools Safeguarding Policy.

Our aim

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right.' (EYFS 2017 p5) We believe by providing the opportunity for children to take part in forest school sessions this enhances their learning and development.

The Proprietor of Little Me Pre-School considers all those directly involved with our setting have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. Our setting aims to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential and we take seriously our responsibility to promote the welfare and safeguard all the children and young people entrusted to our care.

Staffing

During Forest School Sessions there must be a minimum of two pre-school staff, one of which must hold a level 3 Forest School Leader qualification.

The leading member of staff will be located centrally, directing and supervising any forest school activities.

The secondary member of staff will supervise the boundaries and provide any additional assistance to the children or the forest school leader.

When conducting fire related activities, one member of staff is to supervise the fire area and ensure that safety procedures are followed within that area.

Adults without DBS clearance will not be left alone with any child.

Toileting

During forest school sessions the children will use our secluded toilet area in the natural environment, we will provide a bag for them to use if necessary. Only Little Me staff will accompany children to this.

Missing Children

Please refer to our Lost Child Procedure

First Aid

All members of staff hold a 12-hour paediatric first aid certificate and will administer first aid when needed. The casualty will be assessed and monitored, staff will complete an accident form and inform parents.

A first aid kit specific to forest school sessions will kept in the rucksack in the forest school area at all times.

Intruders

Inform a colleague an intruder is present, ask them to gather the children in a safe area and make an informed choice on whether to contact the police. If possible and you feel safe to do so, greet the intruder politely, remain a safe distance, ask them there business and redirect them. Remember your own safety aswell as the childrens, do not approach the intruder if they seem angry or agitated. Remain calm and try to keep the intruder away from the children without coming into physical contact with them.

Prevent Duty

As part of our role as Early Years Practitioners, we have a duty to keep all staff up to date with all legislation involved with Safeguarding the children in the pre-school.

Most recent documentation includes the new Prevent Duty Guidance which childcare providers must comply with as of July 2015. The document can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> Please note: the relevant documentation is the second one on the list titled 'Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales'.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act places a duty on Early Years setting to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The new documentation will be used and referred to alongside other safeguarding documents such as "Working Together to Safeguard Children" and information referring to British Values.

Attend training / awareness courses

We have successfully completed training related to child protection issues to ensure that we are able to recognise the symptoms of possible physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and sexual abuse.

All staff have completed a full Paediatric First Aid course and two members of staff hold Level 3 Forest School Leader qualifications.

Behaviour

During forest school sessions, children will be expected to abide by the forest school rules for their own safety.

Children will be taught to assess their environment for potential hazards and reflect and consider their safety.

Due to the types of activities we engage in during forest school session, we shall be consistent. No means no. Children will know where they stand, and that we mean what we say. Staff will need to feel confident that a child can be trusted with the equipment and tools needed for an activity before we decide the child is able to take part. If at any point a child does not listen, then they will be unable to take part in the activity and may be withdrawn from the forest school session.

If a complaint is made against a member of staff it will be reported to Ofsted and that member of staff will stop working until the appropriate investigations have been completed.

Keeping records

All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children. All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing. Further advice is available in the document Information Sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners (2015). 'Child Protection - Dealing with Disclosures in Early Years Settings' provides advice on dealing with disclosures.

Use of cameras and photos

We will seek your permission to allow a camera or other digital device to take and store photographs for record keeping or display purposes.

If using a camera or other digital device to take photographs of your child, the photographs will be used for observations, or from time to time advertising purposes, the photographs will then be removed from the devices.

We will not distribute or publish any images of your child without your consent.

We will always be able to justify to Ofsted the reason for taking the photographs.

We will always ensure children are appropriately dressed.

We are registered with the Information Commissioners Office - the Data Protection Act.

Responsibilities

Online safety

We occasionally use iPad's and laptops as part of the children's learning. It's important that children understand how to use and keep themselves safe online, we will have basic rules and parental controls to stop children from seeing unsuitable or harmful contents. Children will also be supervised at all times.