

# Safeguarding policy

## August 2017



# Safeguarding

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## Introduction

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is defined in Working together to safeguard children 2013 as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Every business, agency and service provision that deals with children needs to have procedures in place to ensure that they always act in the best interest of the child.

Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the organisation to ensure the protection of children and / or vulnerable adults wherever possible. In contrast, child and adult protection is about responding to circumstances that arise.

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture. It can take a number of forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, neglect, financial (or material) abuse

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## Overview

The Sensory Sessions is committed to safeguard children attending our sessions from harm. We ensure that -

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- we are committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting. Each member of staff has enhanced PVG check.
- children and parents are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate
- all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by staff and responded to appropriately
- The policy effects all directors, staff and sessional staff
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- Our policies and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure that we maintain up to date with current legislation.

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## Communication & Reporting Procedure

We ensure that there is regular opportunity at supervision, meetings and through record keeping to note any issues or concerns that arise during our delivery of play classes.

Any concerns on a child or adult should be recorded on our database with the dates issued and the safeguarding officer notified by phone as soon as possible. Confidentiality must be maintained at all times and issues arising should not be discussed externally.

If urgent advice is required please contact safeguarding officer in first instance. If unavailable please contact duty phone or police.

## Support

The Sensory Sessions is committed to supporting staff with any issues arising in the delivery of classes and any concerns should be discussed as they arise. We will ensure that systems are in place to ensure that all staff and sessional workers working with children are monitored and supervised and that they have opportunities to learn about child protection in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.

## Supplementing documents

Accident prevention policy