

Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding is a relatively new term which is broader than 'child protection' as it also includes prevention. Safeguarding has been defined as:

- All agencies working with children, young people and their families taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised; and
- Where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies taking appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies.

Safeguarding children is vital for registered childcare providers, as part of the legal requirements of their Ofsted registration, and for charities, as charity trustees have a duty of care towards the children with whom they have contact. Having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of children but also it enhances the confidence of staff, volunteers, parents/carers, management or trustees and the general public.

For the purposes of child protection legislation the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years.

Children have a right to have fun and be safe. So what can settings do to ensure their safety? Your group's child protection policy is central to this, but there are many areas that contribute to creating a safe environment, these include:

- Child protection policy and procedure
- Safer recruitment and selection policy and procedure
- Whistle blowing policy and procedure
- Staff and volunteers are inducted and supervised
- Staff and volunteers code of conduct
- Management checked for suitability
- Training
- Health and Safety policy and procedures
- First Aid
- Fire Procedures

- Risk assessments
- Secure premises
- Managing Behaviour
- Child registration information
- Procedures for children's safe arrival and departure
- Deployment of staff
- Trip procedures
- Procedures for meeting the needs of disabled children and others with specific needs
- Listening to concerns from children, parents and carers
- Keeping Ofsted up to date with any changes to the registration of your service

For Further Information

- *Working Together to Safeguard Children* – www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/workingtogether/workingtogethertosafeguardchildren/
- Recruitment and selection of charity trustees are set out in guidance "[Finding New Trustees \(CC30\)](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc30.asp)", available from the charity commission www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc30.asp
- South West Child Protection Procedures – provide detailed online information on all aspects of child protection – www.swcpp.org.uk
- Welfare Requirements – Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare