

# Child protection

## Information for parents and carers

### Are you worried about a child in your care?

All childminders, staff and volunteers in day nurseries, pre-schools, crèches, out of school clubs and holiday schemes have an important part to play in helping parents care for their children. They can work with parents during times of stress by offering support and respite.

Most children are subject to minor accidental injuries, but there may be occasions when you are concerned about the nature or frequency of injury.

Parents should be aware from your introductory leaflets, letters or posters that you are obliged to inform the Children's Services Department of any concern you may have that a child may be at risk or abused. The safety of children may include a duty to share confidential information with others involved in protecting a child.

In line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures, any concerns of this nature

should be reported to the local Children's Services Reception and Assessment Team promptly. Staff will advise you and can decide what action, if any, needs to be taken. This information provided by a carer may be part of a larger picture of abuse or neglect.

It is important that all carers understand something about child abuse and neglect, and are familiar with the procedures of reporting abuse. Your Senior Development Officer (Childcare) can advise you about this, and will be able to tell you about local training opportunities.

### A few danger signs to look for and write down

- Behaviour changes for no obvious reason.
- Bruising in unusual places – arms, stomach, mouth, head and back.
- Bruised eyes – especially two.
- Cigarette burns.

- Finger marks – each finger may mark or bruise on the skin.
- Bite marks.
- Child not using leg or arm – it may have been broken by a blow.
- Inadequate clothing for the time of year.
- Weight loss or an unexplained increase in appetite.

The most important signs may not be listed above, but things that you notice about a child who you know well that makes you feel concerned or uneasy.

In such cases you should feel confident in your experience of working closely with children and telephone the Duty Social Worker, Reception and Assessment (R&A) Team.

### Contacts

Children's Services Department  
Tel: **0845 603 5620**

Out of hours Duty Social Worker  
Tel: **0845 600 4555**  
(Hampshire and Portsmouth)  
Tel: **023 8023 3344**  
(Southampton)

**Every child has the right to be protected.  
It is everyone's responsibility to protect children.**

**For information and regular updates visit: [www.hants.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childcare)**