

SAFE CARE AND PRACTICE POLICY

Statement of intent

The staff at Roundabout Pre-School take the responsibility to promote the welfare and to safeguard all children seriously. We believe that children need to feel safe, secure and happy. This involves our practitioners being responsive to children's needs, whilst maintaining professionalism. This includes giving children cuddles and changing nappies or clothes. To promote good practice and to minimise the risk of allegations we have the following guidelines.

Aim

We aim to protect children from abuse or allegations by implementing safe care practices. Children should expect to be safe from abuse from any adult and abuse between children. Staff should aim to keep themselves safe from false allegations of abuse and ensure that they are not putting themselves in situations that might be open to misinterpretation.

Methods

We recognise the importance of cuddling children and that this is appropriate to do so, we give cuddles only when sought by children needing comfort to support their emotional development. Practitioners are advised to do this in view of other children and practitioners. It is the duty of all staff and the manager to ensure that children are appropriately comforted and to monitor practice.

We discourage inappropriate behaviour such as over tickling, over boisterous play or asking inappropriate questions such as asking children to tell them they love them. Practitioners are also advised to report any such observed practice.

Practitioners are respectful of each other and the children and families at the pre-school and do not use inappropriate language or behaviour including during their break.

All the practitioners are aware of the whistle blowing procedures. The pre-school manager also carries out random checks throughout the day to ensure safe practices. If a parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about safe care and practice procedures or behaviour they consider as inappropriate, including between staff members, they are urged to see the pre-school manager at the earliest opportunity. Management will challenge inappropriate behaviour in line with the supervision/disciplinary or whistleblowing procedures. If the concern relates to the pre-school manager, then the Chair of the Committee should be contacted, who will proceed according to disciplinary or whistleblowing procedures.

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