



## Fenton Flying Start

### Child Protection Policy

#### **Aim**

The playgroup aims to protect all children in its care.

#### **Principles**

- The playgroup supports the principles contained in the United Nations document 'The Rights of the Child' and in the 1989 Children's Act
- The Playgroup believes that each child has the right to expect that adults caring for him/her will protect him/her from all harm. The playgroup believes that the happiness, safety and well-being of every child is important.
- The playgroup is committed to ensuring that the rights of the child are paramount and that there are procedures in place which ensure that the children are protected.
- The playgroup will establish a close partnership with parents/carers in order to foster an awareness of its role in caring for the wellbeing of children.

#### **Codes of practice**

- The playgroup will arrange training and offer support to its workers and volunteers in order to recognise cases of abuse and be able to respond appropriately.
- The Flying Start project and staff will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in suspected cases of abuse.
- All staff are encouraged to download the Wales Safeguarding app onto their devices.
- The playgroup will ensure that the parents and carers of children attending the playgroup are made aware of the Child Protection Policy in a clear and simple form and that this could make it necessary to refer cases further. We will also tell parents about the app.

- The playgroup leader will keep confidential records about the children in his/her care, noting in particular any changes in behaviour or any signs of abuse on file on computer or in an incident book. All information will be kept confidential and under lock and key.
- If staff suspects that a child is being abused then he/she should discuss their concerns with the Child Care Assessment Team and listen to their advice. The leader should make enquires and decide what action to take whether referral meets the threshold for intervention. This may involve other agencies such as the police. Then concerns should be raised with the parents/carer where possible, seeking an explanation for any injury or unusual behaviour. The leader will record the parents or carers response/explanation following the discussion, together with any further steps taken. This may include support and advice to the individual or family. The Registered/Responsible person should be notified of any such discussions. In some cases Social Care may decide if necessary to call an assessment on the family and child and an initial Child Protection Conference where professionals will meet and discuss the child and agree the best way forward.

All referrals should be made to the Child Care Assessment Team (CCAT) If in doubt, seek advice from the duty officers.

Police: 999 or 101 or 0845 330 2000

Child Care Assessment Team 01437 776444

Out of hours: 0300 333 2222

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Child line: 0800 1111

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) 0300 7900 126

Playgroup leader/registered person will be willing to attend a Child Protection Conference if a meeting is called at the request of the Social Services Child Protection Co-ordinator.

### Setting closure

When the playgroup is to close during term time the Play leader will ring all parents to check in and make a record of these responses weekly. The Play Leader will prioritise any children that are LAC or on the Child Protection register with the relevant Social worker. If there are concerns with any other children we will keep in close contact with them by contacting these parents and offering support via the

telephone. We will work with Health visitors and can offer support through The Pembrokeshire Family Support Team if parents feel they need it.

Policy reviewed annually

October 2024