

Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Ninja Tots believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard all children and young people and promote their welfare, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the South West Child Protection Procedures www.swcpp.org.uk.

If you want to know more about this procedure, please speak to the designated person for Child Protection, Mr Adrian Foote.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive Ninja Tots services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including directors, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Ninja Tots Ltd

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
 - Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks (including CRB checks) are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers

- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Procedures for Referral

All action is taken in line with the following legislation/guidance:

- *South West Safeguarding and Child Protection Shared Procedures*, www.swcpp.org.uk
- *Safeguarding Children in Education* September 2004
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children* 2006
- *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* 2006.

Any member of staff or volunteer who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that abuse may have occurred **must** report it immediately to the designated person for child protection, Mr Adrian Foote (mail@ninjatots.co.uk)

In the absence of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff.

The designated person will immediately inform Children Services Referral Team by telephone.

Swindon/Cricklade/Wroughton:
Telephone number: 01793 466903
Out of hours: 01793 436699

Chippenham: Telephone number: 01249 444321 **Out of Hours:** 08456 070 888

Cirencester: Telephone number: 01452 426565

The telephone referral to the Children Services Referral Team will be confirmed in writing using the form marked RF1, within a maximum of 48 hours, ideally 24 hours, with a copy to the designated person for child protection, Mr Adrian Foote. Essential information will include pupil's name, address, date of birth, family composition, reason for referral, name of person receiving the referral and any advice given. This written confirmation must be signed and dated by the referrer.

Confidentiality must be maintained and information relating to individual children and young people/families shared with staff on a strictly need to know basis.

Alleged Abuse by Staff, Managers, Volunteers or Trustees

When an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, then the allegation must be passed to your designated person for child protection,

Mr Adrian Foote, or, if the allegation concerns them, direct to the Local Authority Designated Officer (see below).

Your designated person for child protection should contact one of the Local Authority Designated Officers for consultation

- Local Authority Designated Officer, on 01793 466849
- Head of Safeguarding on 01793 464366.
- The designated officer contacted will record a note of the consultation and will advise on the appropriate action that needs to be taken.

Record Keeping

Any member of staff or volunteer receiving a disclosure of abuse, or noticing possible abuse, must make an accurate record as soon as possible noting what was said or seen, putting the event into context, and giving the date, time and location. All records must be dated and signed.

All hand-written records will be retained, even if they are subsequently typed up in a more formal report.

Written records of concerns about children should be kept, even where there is no need to make a referral immediately.

All records relating to child protection concerns will be kept in a secure place and will remain confidential.

Parental Involvement

This organisation is committed to helping parents/carers understand its responsibility for the welfare of all children and young people.

Parents/carers will be given information about the organisation's child protection procedures.

Where possible, concerns should be discussed with parents/carers and the designated person should seek agreement to making a referral, unless to do so would place the child/young person at increased risk of significant harm.

Training

The designated person must receive training every 2 years in child protection.

All staff and volunteers shall have access to appropriate training on a regular basis, at least every 3 years.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and up-dated where appropriate.