



**LADYBIRDS**  
NURSERY

## *Supporting the Voice of the Child*

### *Safeguarding*

#### Procedures

Effective Safeguarding systems must be child centred. Problem may arise in Safeguarding systems when practitioners lose sight of the needs and the views of the child.

Everyone working with children and families must seek the voice of the child and reflect and respond to it in all aspects of their work.

This is rooted in legislation and in good practise.

Children have the right to be respected, at Ladybirds we understand that our children are of pre-school age, but this does not excuse the right for them to have their voice heard.

We encourage positive stable relationships with children, who builds up trust with our staff.

Anyone working with any of our children will take them seriously, speak to them and listen to what they have to say, and support their individual needs.

Staff at Ladybirds have:

-  Vigilance: adults will notice when there may be something troubling a child
-  Understanding and Action: to understand what is happening, to be heard and to have that understanding acted upon
-  Stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust
-  Information and Engagement: to be involved in any decisions (age appropriate)
-  Explanations: to be informed of outcomes of any decisions made (age appropriate)
-  Advocacy: to help them to put their views forward

## Talking to our Young Children

Initial discussions with our young children will be conducted in a manner that minimises any undue stress to them, and maximises the likelihood that they will feel enabled and supported in sharing any information they wish to give. Our children will be given time in order to develop trust.

We encourage our staff to:

-  Listen openly and seek the views of the child without advising or judging
-  Consult with other practitioners working with the child to ensure that confusing messages are avoided, and that the child is not asked to repeat their information unnecessarily. (Taking confidentiality into consideration at all times)
-  Allow time for the child to speak without interruptions
-  Any disclosures made must be brought to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Officers (Gill and Zoe) as a matter of urgency.

## Recording Information

Any conversations that may cause any kind of concern will be reported to the Safeguarding Officers, who will then make steps to record and if necessary, make any referrals deemed necessary.

This policy will be reviewed sooner than the review date should any new information become available.

Issue Date April 2019

To be reviewed April 2020

Date reviewed

