



LADYBIRDS
NURSERY

Supporting the Voice of the Child

2021/2022

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.

 Covid 19 - This policy is particularly important. Children will deal with the coronavirus pandemic in lots of different ways.

 They may have suffered a bereavement, they may have been shielding because of a vulnerable adult in the house



They may have been shielding because they are vulnerable themselves



They may have some separation anxiety when the return to nursery after being at home with parents during lockdown



They may have had a parent who has been Covid 19 positive and had to have hospital treatment



They may have had to isolate away from parents due to parents jobs, so not having seen parents for a long time, then having to return to nursery



They may not have been out of their home for the lockdown period, may be due to parental anxiety



They may be an only child, and not associated with any other child since lockdown began, therefore, they might have forgotten how to 'play' and 'share' and we expect them to come back into nursery and play and share again.....



They may have been subject to any kind of abuse or mistreatment, and their only safe place is nursery, so they are over keen to come back....



They may have witnessed domestic abuse from their parents, they may display this during play once back at nursery



They may have missed grandparents who, before the lockdown, took over some care of the child



They may just simply be happy children, who can overcome anything and take things in their stride



Whatever their situation will have been during our Lockdown period, it will certainly have had some effect on our little Ladybirds.



It is now our job to give them love, security, a warm welcome back and the learning opportunities that they deserve.



We will make nursery a safe place



We will ensure that we put all the safety procedures in place that we have set out in our policies



We welcome back our little Ladybirds with open arms, and will make sure we spend time listening to their stories about their Lockdown experiences and do our very best to reassure them.

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 June 2020

Date to be Reviewed August 2020 (Additional Covid 10 Information)

Date Reviewed September 2021

Date to be Reviewed September 2022

Date Reviewed December 2021

Date to be Reviewed December 2022

Date Reviewed

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