



Safeguarding Children Policy

In accordance with the reformed EYFS 2012 Riverside Playgroup will have regard to the Government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. If our staff have concerns about children's safety or welfare the setting will notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and in emergencies, the police.

Riverside Playgroup fully recognises that it has a shared responsibility for safeguarding children. This policy applies to all staff, management and volunteers working in the setting, and the families accessing the setting.

- The welfare of the children attending this setting is paramount and concerns about child abuse are taken seriously. This policy compliments and supports a range of other policies, for instance: Whistle-blowing Policy, Confidentiality Policy and Procedure, Risk Assessment Policy, etc
- Recruitment procedures ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers working with children and will follow EYFS welfare requirements with regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) requirements (when required to do so) and references.
- Where there is a delay in obtaining the DBS, staff will not have unsupervised contact with children being cared for.
- All staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children whether received before or during their employment at the setting. There is a process in place that provides staff with opportunities to share such information.
- All staff are trained in the setting's safeguarding policy and procedures within the first week of employment and will be required to access and attend appropriate training. Training will be refreshed every 3 years.
- All staff are made aware of possible indicators of child abuse and the procedures for recording and reporting, through staff training both internal and external.
- Staff will be made aware of the importance of recognising and reporting inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with children through staff training both internal and external.
- Procedures are implemented for identifying, recording and reporting concerns.
- The setting provides a safe environment in which children feel valued, can learn and develop, feel secure and are encouraged to talk and be listened to.
- We work within the guidelines set out by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board which are underpinned by the statutory document entitled 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2018.
- The setting will not tolerate on the premises any parent/carer under the influence of alcohol or any other substance. Any parent/carer under the influence will be refused admission and Riverside will determine if it is appropriate and safe for the child to leave with them. If a child is kept on the premises in this situation other adults authorised to collect will be contacted. If no other adult is available Riverside will contact the police.
- A practitioner has been designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and liaising with local statutory children's services and with by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board
- The designated lead practitioner is: **Rita Blyth**. In Rita's absence Amanda Gilliatt will take over the role.
- The lead practitioner will provide support, advice, and guidance to any other staff on an on-going basis, and on any specific safeguarding issues as required.
- The designated lead practitioner has accessed a level 2 taught course in safeguarding and will refresh this training every 3 years.
- The use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting is covered in our safeguarding procedure. (see procedure)



- Riverside Playgroup has a clear procedure that will be implemented when an allegation has been made against a member of staff. (see Whistle Blowing Policy and Guidance or Complaints Procedure).
- Riverside Playgroups disciplinary procedure will inform any action in the event of an allegation. (see disciplinary procedure, within the Staff Handbook)
- As a registered provider we will inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after the children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere).
- The setting will also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations.
- Where an allegation is upheld the setting will make a referral to the DBS, in accordance with our responsibilities under the Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Where there is an indication or evidence to suggest that a member of staff failed to execute their duty to safeguard a child/(ren) at the setting or elsewhere he/she will be subject to the settings safeguarding and/or disciplinary procedure.
- This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the safeguarding children procedure
- Safeguarding children (child protection) concerns will be confidential and shared only on a need to know basis.

Advice and concerns regarding safeguarding children will be directed to

- Lincolnshire County Council Children Services Customer Service Centre (CSC):

Office Hours: Tel. 01522 782111

Out of Hours: Tel. 01522 782333

- Lincolnshire Police – non emergency number 0300 111 0300

The setting will implement the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board Escalation Policy, if there are concerns that a referral to the Customer Service Centre (CSC) has not been dealt with appropriately.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding procedure which sets out our processes for responding to concerns.

This policy has been adopted by Riverside Playgroup.

Date policy adopted: 7/06/09

Reviewed and amended: 12/03/2020