



Happy Hands Pre-School Playgroup

making learning fun for over 30 years!

Child Protection Policy

February 2012

LANCASHIRE EARLY YEARS CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MISSION STATEMENT

Children's safety and well-being is central to all the work undertaken by this Early Years setting. Staff working within the setting will be given training and be encouraged to develop skills to enable them to respond appropriately to any situation where a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

This Early Years setting believes that the best place for the vast majority of children to reside and develop is with their families, in the community where they live. To this end, and in line with research and confirmed best practice, Early Years staff will work in partnership with parents insofar as that is possible and in the best interests of the child(ren). However the safety and welfare of children will be this Early Year setting's paramount consideration at all times. We have a duty to protect children and will pass on any concerns to the appropriate agencies.

In practice this means:

- We will adopt and comply with the Lancashire Early Years Child Protection Policies and Procedures from the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- We seek out training opportunities for staff to ensure they are able to put the procedures into practice
- Staff will share any concerns they have about the welfare of a child with our Nominated Child Protection Officer – Judith Watson or her Deputy – Ann Spencer
- In most situations these concerns will be discussed with the parents.
- Where there are serious worries that a child is, or maybe, being abused we are required to follow the guidelines and procedures for contacting Lancashire Children's Integrated Services in order to share these concerns
- If a referral is to be made we will act within the guidance in deciding whether to inform parents at the same time
- When responding to any complaint that a member of staff or volunteer has abused a child we will follow the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board's guidance.
- We will refer any such complaint immediately to the local authority to investigate and we will also inform Ofsted Early Years

More details of the Lancashire Early Years Child Protection Policies and Procedures can be downloaded from our website.