

Safeguarding Children Policy

As a childminder, safeguarding the welfare and safety of the children in my care is my highest priority.

Training and Awareness

I have undergone training in safeguarding and child protection, which has equipped me to recognize the signs and symptoms of all types of abuse, including:

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Emotional Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse**
- **Neglect**

If I suspect that a child is at risk, I will seek immediate advice from the Local Safeguarding Board or the Family Contact Point.

Reporting Concerns

If I have reason to believe that a child in my care is at risk of harm, I am legally obligated to report this to the Hartlepool and Stockton On Tees safeguarding Children partnership. In such cases, I will:

- Share any relevant information with Ofsted, Social Services, and the Police as required.
- Prioritize the child's safety above all else, even if this involves breaking confidentiality.

In emergencies where a child is at immediate risk, I will dial **999** to report the situation to the emergency services.

Prevent Duty

Under the Prevent Duty legislation (July 2015), I am committed to protecting children from being drawn into terrorism or exposed to extremist ideologies. Please refer to my **Prevent Duty Policy** for detailed information on how I address this responsibility.

Allegations Against Myself or My Family

Should any allegations be made against me or a member of my family, I will:

- Immediately contact my Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at **The Children's Hub (Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees)**
Phone: **01642 130080**
Email: **childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk** to report the matter.
- Follow their guidance and cooperate fully with any investigation.

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with current safeguarding requirements. If you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding practices, please feel free to discuss them with me.