

Children's Services

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Child Protection Regulations

This letter is distributed to all parents using registered childcare in East Sussex, and has been given to you for information only.

As you may know, the valuable services offered by childcare providers for children under 8 years are subject to regulation by Ofsted. The purposes of regulation are to protect children, to provide reassurance to people who wish their children to be looked after, and to ensure that the services meet specified standards. It is only after these standards are met that a provider of childcare services is registered. Ofsted inspectors continue to carry out inspections following registration.

Your provider of childcare has given a commitment for the safety and protection of children and they are expected to make their individual policies and procedures clear to you. This includes their policies and procedures for Child Protection and for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents.

A registered childcare provider has a legal duty to follow the Child Protection Procedures which have been drawn up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. A copy of these procedures can be found in the local library. Under these procedures, childcare providers have to report any suspicions they have that a child may have suffered, is suffering, or is at risk of suffering significant harm to the County Council's Children's Social Care department. It is then the responsibility of Children's Social Care staff to decide what action, if any, needs to be taken.

Such situations are always distressing but nevertheless the law is clear that the welfare of children is the paramount concern. The Sussex Procedures state that in the event of an inquiry, parents will be afforded the right to honesty, full information as appropriate and the opportunity to express their views and challenge actions.

If you require further guidance about any aspect of the responsibilities of registered providers, please contact the **Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service on 01323 463026 and ask for the Early Years Foundation Stage Improvement Officer for your area.**

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Glover, LADO Safeguarding Unit

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