

Forest School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



The forest school safeguarding and child protection policy is an addendum to ACE'S child protection and safeguarding policies.

All staff and regular parent helpers will have enhanced checks from the Disclosure & Baring Service (DBS).

It is the responsibility of the forest school leader and accompanying members of ACE staff to ensure the safety of children when on a forest school session. We are committed to creating an environment in which children are safe and free from harm.

It is the role of the forest school leader to minimise the risk of abuse taking place:

- By following the forest school principles and criteria for good practice set out by www.forestschoollassociation.org
- Educating children how to stay safe and speak out.
- Taking appropriate action should any allegations arise and following the ACE child protection and safeguarding policy.

Adults including parent helpers working within forest school sessions need to appreciate that when children feel comfortable and content, when their instinct to trust and risk take is encouraged, they may be moved to disclose information which they might otherwise keep to themselves. Any volunteer or member of staff who finds that a child is telling them something which concerns them should:

1. Listen to the child, allowing them to lead the discussion.
2. Keep calm and offer some reassurance and accept what the child says without challenge.
3. Make NO promises. You cannot 'keep a secret'. You should make it understood that there are limits to confidentiality at the start of the disclosure.
4. Inform the designated member of staff at the settings for child protection
-ACE Day Nursery - Sarah Piotrowski and Darlena Reed (maternity leave) - 01223 366355
-ACE Nursery School - Lisa Tuohy and Hanna Ochalik-Baca - **01223 375181**
5. Keep an accurate, written record of the conversation including; the date, time, the location and what was said by the child and yourself. Keep it secure and hand the record to the designated member for child protection as soon as possible.

Any suspicion of abuse will be promptly and appropriately dealt with in accordance with the ACE child protection and safeguarding policy.

Policy updated: Autumn term 2018

Signed: *Darlena Reed* (Maternity leave)

Jo Adamante

Review date: Autumn term 2019

Position: Forest School Manager

Forest School Leader