

Non Mobile Baby Safeguarding Policy

This policy sets out clear principles and guidelines on safeguarding with specific reference to Non Mobile Babies. It should be considered in line with our whole Safeguarding Policy. In response to a Serious Case Review which noted that 'Accidental bruising on non-independently mobile infants is rare and should therefore always warrant further investigation', many Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs are asking settings to develop their own "Non Mobile Baby Safeguarding Policy". This policy is in response to that advice.

Protocol

The aim of the policy is to safeguard non-moving babies (and older children who are unable to move because they are disabled) by putting a procedure into place to protect them if they are observed to have unexplained bruising or other injuries such as fractures, burns or head injuries which might suggest they have been subjected to abuse.

Experts recognise that innocent bruising and other injuries might occur, especially in mobile babies. However, evidence states that it is highly unlikely that innocent bruising or other injuries will be observed in non-mobile babies.

Policy

Grafton Childcare is required to keep babies and children safe from harm. We recognise that non-mobile babies (and older children who are disabled) are at risk of physical abuse. Evidence states that the younger the child the higher the risk that bruising on a baby is non-accidental. It is a requirement of our MASH that we refer all cases of bruising in non-mobile babies and older children to MASH for investigation.

Procedure

If a non mobile baby or older non-mobile disabled child arrives at Grafton Childcare with a bruise or other mark which could suggest the mark will be recorded on an "existing injury" form. If a reason has been given for the mark or injury by parents this will also be recorded. Parents will be asked to sign the form.

If a non-mobile baby or older disabled child has an accident whilst in our care that causes a mark or other injury, details will be recorded on our accident forms. Parents will be asked to sign the forms.

Grafton Childcare staff are not qualified to investigate the cause of bruises or other indications of abuse in babies and children and **all Adults, including the Safeguarding Designated Officer (SDO), have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including MASH, Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, or the Police, for further assessment and investigation of potential child abuse without delay.**

Recording Accidents

It is essential that all bruises are noted in the child's records. For example:-

- Another child passed a toy to Baby A a little roughly and caused a bruise on the Baby A's head – right temple just above the eye.
- Dad reports that Baby A was sitting unstrapped in his car seat at home and his older sibling tipped him out causing a bruise/bump/injury to Baby A's arm/leg.
- Baby A was picked up, carried and dropped by an older child and has a bruise on his arm/leg.
- Baby A was being held he went rigid and threw himself backwards. The Key Worker was unable to stop his head making contact with the wall and has a red mark on the top of his head.
 - Mum explained that the small bruise on Baby A's upper right arm was caused at the weekend by his brother who was being over-enthusiastic with a toy.