

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

3.5. A practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting. Childminders must take the lead responsibility themselves. The lead practitioner is responsible for liaison with local statutory children's services agencies, and with the LSP. They must provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required. The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course¹⁴ that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect (as described at paragraph 3.6).

3.6. Providers must train all staff to understand their safeguarding policy and procedures, and ensure that all staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues. Training made available by the provider must enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way. These may include:

- significant changes in children's behaviour
- deterioration in children's general well-being
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect
- children's comments which give cause for concern
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home or that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation¹⁵ and/or
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with the children, for example: inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images

Providers may also find 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners'¹⁶ helpful.

¹⁴ Taking account of any advice from the LSP or local authority on appropriate training courses.

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/female-genital-mutilation>

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>

Warwickshire Local Safeguarding Partnership recommends the following safeguarding courses for early years and childcare providers:

New to Safeguarding in Early Years and Childcare (Note: this course has replaced Basic Child Protection) 3 hours

An introduction to safeguarding and child protection for people who are new to early years and childcare. This course will look at safeguarding as an umbrella term and consider child protection as part of wider safeguarding issues. The course covers the four categories of abuse, along with the signs and indicators to consider. It looks at

Warwickshire specific procedures and information alongside national expectations for good practice in safeguarding and child protection. At the end of the course you will be able to recognise the signs and indicators of neglect and abuse and know what to do if you have a concern about a child.

Safeguarding Awareness Update

A free safeguarding awareness update is being developed by Warwickshire Early Years Advisers and will be sent to all Early Years and Childcare DSLs for them to use with their staff teams. The update will be available for September 2021.

Newly appointed Designated Safeguarding Lead 1 day (this course replaces the 2 day DSL course)

This course is for newly appointed Designated Safeguarding Leads in early years and childcare settings including childminders. The course focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the Lead DSL and those of any deputy DSLs. Before attending this training participants should have completed basic child protection or safeguarding awareness raising training.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Update (this course replaces the DSL Refresher Course)

This course is for all DSLs who have previously completed the 2 day course or the Newly appointed DSL training. It is recommended that DSLs attend an update every two years. The update will cover local and national developments in safeguarding along with current issues and learning from recent case studies. It aims to support DSLs to continue developing their knowledge and expertise.