



## **Nile Grove Playgroup Child Protection Policy**

### **The Child Protection Policy**

The Nile Grove Playgroup will adopt the Scottish Pre- School Play Association (SPPA) Child Protection Guidelines and Policy for Early Years Providers. The Playgroup staff, committee members and volunteers will have a working knowledge of this Child Protection Policy.

The Scottish Government wants Scotland to be the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up so that they become: successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. All children and young people (including unborn babies) have the right to be cared for and protected from harm and abuse and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs met. Children and young people should get the help they need, when they need it and their safety is always paramount. The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) is explicit that everyone in Scottish society has an important part to play in preventing the abuse and neglect of children and young people, and in responding to any situation where they think a child may be at risk of abuse or harm.

Child Protection has to be seen in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Early Years Framework, A guide to evaluating services for children and young people using quality indicators (Care Inspectorate, 2012).and Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC, 2012). GIRFEC is the national approach in Scotland which promotes action to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. There are eight wellbeing indicators stating that children and young people must be: healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included above all in this context, safe. The primary indicator for child protection is to keep a child safe and, in so doing, attention is

given to other areas of wellbeing as appropriate. Therefore, the aim of the Nile Grove Playgroup Child Protection Policy is to protect the child. We have, and will continue to create in our playgroup, an environment in which children will be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible. "Child Protection" forms part of this - hence the need for a clear policy. If a team member suspected or noticed abuse of a child attending the nursery, they would report it to the Nursery Child Protection Officer, Audrey Cameron, immediately. They would assess the situation then a decision would be made as to how to proceed and follow up appropriately, which may include discussion with the parent/main carer. However, if an urgent response is required to protect the child the Police or Social Work Department would be contacted immediately. All information would be documented immediately to ensure accuracy and kept in the child's file as it may be required for legal proceedings. Confidentiality would be maintained at all times throughout this process.

The Playgroup staff, committee members and volunteers will adopt and follow the Scottish Pre- School Play Association (SPPA) Child Protection Guidelines and Policy for Early Years Providers. The Playgroup team has a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. The following notes outline when action would be taken.

### **Physical Abuse**

If the playgroup staff have reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, deliberate poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating and instances where there is definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented, action will be taken.

### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. If the staff witness any occasions where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing or had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, action will be taken.

### **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. This may involve conveying to a child that they are inadequate, worthless or unloved. It could possibly include the imposition of age, or developmentally inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in

danger, or exploiting or corrupting children. If the staff have reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection, action will be taken.

### **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

If staff have a reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development including non-organic failure to thrive, action will be taken.

### **Contacts:**

Tel: 0131 200 2324 (Children and Families Social Care Direct)

Mon - Thurs 8:30 - 5 pm      Friday 8:30 - 15:55 pm

Emergency Social Work Service 0800-731-6969 at all other times

Police Contact telephone number: 0131-229-2323 or in an emergency 999 or 101

Care Inspectorate telephone number: 0131-653-4100

Parent Line is Scotland's free helpline, for anyone caring for or concerned about a child - open seven days a week, 365 days a year Telephone: 08000 28 22 33

This Child Protection policy for Nile Grove Playgroup was written by Audrey Cameron (Playgroup Manager), April 2016. This policy will be available on our website for everyone to read and familiarize themselves with the contents. This policy will be reviewed and re-adopted/amended by new management committees and as appropriate updated on a yearly basis.

Reviewed

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## References

**Care Inspectorate** <http://www.careinspectorate.com/> A guide to evaluating services for children and young people using quality indicators (Care Inspectorate, 2012)

**Children 1st** [www.children1st.org.uk/](http://www.children1st.org.uk/)

**GIRFEC National Practice Model and Risk Assessment**  
[www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/11/7143/2](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/11/7143/2)

**Protecting Children** - Information for Service Providers - It's in your hands. Designed by the City of Edinburgh Council Corporate services 1101/C&F/KR June (2009).

**Scottish Government**, Early Years Framework, Edinburgh (2008)

**Scottish Government publications** [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/) National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014)

**The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland** (2010) set out for Early Years Providers in Partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. Scotland (2010)

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (1989), [www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/UN-Convention/](http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/UN-Convention/)

updated - April 2016

Audrey Cameron