Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy 2026

Policy Statement
Dizzy's Day Nursery and The Tree House Out of School Club recognise that the welfare of all children is paramount. We work with children, parents, external agencies and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children, and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

This statement lays out the procedures that will be followed if we have any reason to believe that a child in our care may be subject to welfare issues including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect. It also contains guidance and 'good practice' examples to ensure safe working practices along with the promotion of safeguarding in its wider context, in addition to Child Protection.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and wellbeing of all children in our care (Safeguarding and Child Protection). As such, we have a statutory duty to children/parents/carers and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

Dizzy's Day Nursery has a legal duty to report any suspicions of abuse to Ofsted, Customer First - Social Care Services and/or the Police.
The Children's Act 2004 and 1989, Every Child Matters 2004, the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2022), Care Standard Act 2000, Data Protection Act 1998 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Working Together to Safeguard Children (KCSIE) 2026 place a duty on professionals working together to report any suspicions around abuse to the local authority, who have an obligation to investigate such matters.

Dizzy's will follow the procedures set out in the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Partnership document and will seek their advice on all steps taken subsequently.

Legal referencing – contact numbers
Customer first – 0808 800 4005 (to make a referral) also known as Emergency Duty Service
MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for advice/support) 0345 6061499
Live Chat Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (suffolksp.org.uk) (this can be printed afterwards). Sept 2026 – The MASH is in the process of being updated according to the new Family First Programme.
LADO (Local Area Designated Office & Safeguarding team) – 0300 123 2044 (A&S)
Ofsted – 0300 123 1231
NSPCC (National) – 0808 800 5000
Police- 101
SSCP (Suffolk Safeguarding Children Partnership) - https://www.suffolkscp.org.uk/

Safeguarding Statement
Dizzy's Day Nursery is here to serve children and families. We will listen and keep private anything you say to us. However, we have to inform the Child Protection Agencies if we are worried about the care a child may be/is receiving.

Before a child attends nursery, we ensure that their parents/main carer has completed a 'Registration 2 Form', this is kept in the child's personal file and is a record of the child's full information with signed permission from parents indicating their understanding that if abuse is suspected we would follow the guidelines set out in this policy.
During a referral situation we follow the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership guidelines as professionals with a statutory duty of care to the children we look after.

Safeguarding Co-ordinators
Designated Safeguarding Lead: *Liz Nunn*
Position: Nursery Owner/Manager
Designated Safeguarding Deputies: *Sam Blick & Bev Busby*
Position: Nursery Deputies/Forest School Leader
Safeguarding Admin; Lisa Miller (manages appointments, diary dates for meetings and meeting minutes).
Position; Nursery Administrator

The role of the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy is to ensure that this safeguarding policy is fully implemented and kept up to date and to ensure all members of staff are competent and to deal with any allegations promptly and professionally. We do not investigate or make judgements; our duty is to share factual information according to the bullet points below. We work together to ensure all staff knowledge of safeguarding is current, and we support all staff in knowing how, and being confident to respond appropriately to:

- Significant changes in children's behaviour
- Deterioration in their general well-being
- Unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse
- Neglect
- Comments or disclosures children or adults make which give cause for concern.

Through comprehensive induction and continuous professional development, all staff are aware of their responsibilities to act swiftly upon any suspicions or concerns they may have about any child or member of staff at the nursery. All staff members are required to read and be able to explain the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the EYFS 2026. Staff members receive training and support in how to talk to a child who has disclosed information and know not to ask leading questions but listen to the child and if needed repeat exactly what they have said to encourage further information from that child (reflective listening).

Staff know the safeguarding lead and deputies and to speak to them with any concerns that they may have. Staff are required by this policy to inform a safeguarding officer if they have a personal relationship or connection with any family whose child/ren are in our care – this is especially important if the child or family have Children and Young Peoples Services involved, at any level.

The 'Flow Chart' Safeguarding procedure from the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership is located on the wall of the nursery office and the Staff Room. The flow chart shows the action that should be taken if a practitioner has a concern about a child's welfare.

All members of the team at Dizzy's Day Nursery are required to ensure that they are familiar with the flow chart and its purpose.

When a referral is made to 'Customer First' the information is given to the 'Suffolk Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub' (M.A.S.H). The MASH duty officers will assign a 'b.r.a.g.' rating (blue, red, amber or green - depending on the level of need), then information is shared with the relevant MASH officers e.g social care, police, health, education, early years, early help, housing, probation or youth offending.

It is a requirement that requests by the MASH **to** the nursery for information (usually by telephone) are complied with, such requests should be passed on to the nursery safeguarding officers or, in their absence, the member of senior staff. It is best practice to take a name and number and then call them back (as a way of verifying it's a genuine contact).

Abuse and Neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.

Physical Abuse
Action will be taken under this heading if staff have reason to believe that there has been physical injury to a child (including deliberate poisoning), where there is definite knowledge or a reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.
Procedure
Any sign of a mark/injury on a child when they come into Dizzy's provision will be recorded.
The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer by the safeguarding officer unless this puts the child at risk.
Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records.
If there appear to be any queries regarding the injury or the child - Children and Young Peoples Services will be notified.

Sexual Abuse
Action will be taken under this heading if staff have witnessed occasions where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing or has an extensive preoccupation with sexual matters, has an inappropriate knowledge of sexual adult behaviour, makes a disclosure or shows signs of physical abuse evident on intimate areas of the body.
Procedure
The observed incidences will be reported to the designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy.
The matter will be referred to the Local Authority and the parents will not be informed unless advised by the Local Authority.

Emotional Abuse
Action will be taken under this heading if 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.
Procedure

The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer by the safeguarding officer - unless this puts the child at risk.
Such discussion will be recorded, and the parent/carer will have access to such records.
If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances or the child, the matter will be referred to Children and Young Peoples Services.

Neglect
Action will be taken under this heading if staff have reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child, (e.g. by exposure to any kind of danger including cold and starvation) which results in the serious impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
Procedure
The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer by the safeguarding officer unless this puts the child at risk.
Such discussion will be recorded, and the parent/carer will have access to such records.

Allegations Made Against A Staff Member, volunteer or student
Action will be taken under this heading, and the following procedure will be followed.
The concern will be discussed with the safeguarding officer
The staff member will not be informed of the allegation.
Ofsted and the LADO will be notified of any allegations made against a member of staff.
A risk assessment will take place and if deemed necessary, the staff member will be suspended on full pay and removed from the setting for the duration of the investigation.
The concern will be discussed with parent/carer.
Such discussion will be recorded, and the parent/carer will have access to such records.
The advice from LADO will be followed until conclusion of the matter.
Ofsted will be informed of updates and the conclusion.
We will take all aspects of confidentiality into account during this investigation.
If staff are dismissed due to misconduct as a result, we would notify the 'independent barring board'.

Good Practice Requirements
- ✓ The safeguarding officer and deputy (ies) will attend basic + advanced safeguarding and associated training required to remain up to date and comply with the EYFS, every 2 years. Along with any other training opportunities given e.g. CEOP.
- ✓ All staff will attend Safeguarding Children Training. All staff are responsible for keeping their Safeguarding and Child Protection knowledge up to date – training must be completed every 2 years.

- ✓ Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) document is important for all staff to read and become familiar with. It can be found at Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (a copy is also available from the nursery office).
- ✓ The Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026) document is also important for staff to be familiar with and can be found at; Keeping children safe in education 2026: September 2026
- ✓ All staff have their own copy of this policy and are made aware of revised safeguarding issues.
- ✓ All staff must ensure that their practice and professional knowledge is up to date and that they are focussed on the care and developmental needs of every child in their care. Staff are responsible for ensuring that they regularly engage in continuous professional development (CPD), that enables them to do this.
- ✓ Inclusion is a requirement of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. All staff are required to work inclusively by planning for and engaging all children in care routines and play opportunities, with the level of support that each child requires in line with the EYFS, Behaviour and Send policies of the setting.
- ✓ All staff must consider their suitability for work. Staff must be fit and well enough at work to uphold this policy and must inform Liz Nunn or another senior member of staff if anything about their health or wellbeing may affect their ability to keep children safe.
- ✓ Staff are required to leave all personal mobile phones, camera devices or ***smart watches** if they have a camera, in the Staff Room, and visitors are asked to leave them in the nursery front office. Staff receive clear instruction in this during their induction processes and visitors are requested verbally and by notice (in the visitors book and reminders on the nursery doors) to adhere to the nursery policy.
- ✓ Basic mobile phones without photo or internet capability are provided for outings/school transport.
- ✓ E-safety is of paramount importance (please see separate E-safety policy). Nursery employees are not permitted to be connected via social media with any child who attends the nursery. Nursery employees are requested not to be connected with nursery families via social media unless they have a prior relationship outside nursery – in this case the employee should inform the nursery manager of this in writing.
- ✓ Dizzy's Day Nursery will ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times.
- ✓ All staff working within the provision are DBS checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Ofsted and internal vetting procedures as required by the EYFS and best practice guidelines for the safe recruitment practice.
- ✓ If we have any concerns about a child we will follow this policy, contact the designated professional for advice and then act appropriately.
- ✓ Adults who have not got a DBS disclosure will not undertake any activity or care routines with the children.
- ✓ Students are not left alone with children and are supervised at all times.
- ✓ Where abuse at home, outside the nursery or in the nursery setting is suspected, Dizzy's Day Nursery will continue to welcome and support the child and family while investigations continue.

- ✓ We promote 'keeping ourselves safe' with the children, this is carried out through conversation, circle times, continuous provision and during planned opportunities to support and empower children to keep themselves safe.
- ✓ Partnership with parents – practitioners share information and resources with parents to support them in keeping their children safe, helpful strategies for positive parenting and signposting/referral to support services.
- ✓ All visitors are recorded in our visitor's book.
- ✓ Dizzy's letters and printed information state the nursery's 'commitment to safeguarding' statement.

***Smart Watches** – It is advised that camera/email enabled smart watches are not worn in nursery rooms. However, if you chose to wear it, you have to ensure that your Bluetooth/wifi connection is disabled so that these functions are not working during your work with the children.

Dizzy's Day Nursery has a clear commitment to safeguarding children and promoting welfare. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the nursery owner, Manager or Ofsted (if the nursery owner is at fault) at the earliest opportunity.