

## Policy

### Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff and parents of Kidzone Nursery with guidelines and support about child abuse, and how they can act to assist in the safeguarding of children and young people in the setting. Our goal is to create an environment where children and young people will feel safe, secure, and cared for.

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

- AE Child Right's Law (Wadeema law 2016)
- UK Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (2014)

Children have a right to protection from being hurt, and from violence, abuse, and neglect (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19)

- All children have the right to be cared for and protected from harm and abuse and grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs met.
- Children should get the help they need, when they need it, and their safety is always paramount
- All actions taken by nursery staff and parents should be in best interest of children.

**Safeguarding Lead- KidZone Al Dhait Branch Manager-**

**Deputy Safeguarding Lead- Head Teacher**

**Police – 999 for emergencies**

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### **What is Child Abuse?**

"Child abuse" is used to describe situations in which children are intentionally or unintentionally hurt or put in danger, typically by adults and frequently by someone they trust.

### **Kinds of Abuse**

#### **Physical:**

Signs include bruises or injuries in areas that are not typical for a child, such as fleshy regions of the arms and legs, back, wrists, ankles, and face. Injuries that are not consistent with a kid's usual play activities are sometimes used to characterize physical abuse, which is also known as intentionally hitting or harming a child.

#### **Neglect:**

When a kid's basic needs are intentionally neglected, such as when they are not sufficiently clothed, fed, or cared for and are left unattended, this is known as child abuse.

#### **Emotional Abuse:**

This is described as any abuse or torture that might have an impact on a child's mental health, emotional health and wellness. Shouting at a child, making them feel unworthy, subjecting them to unwarranted punishment, and acting inconsistently toward a child are the most typical emotional abuse behaviors.

#### **Sexual Abuse:**

This is characterized as the abuse of kids to satisfy the needs of grownups or other kids. Involvement of children in sexual activity. When a child indicates sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters, or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behavior or language, action needs to be taken. This may include acting out sexual activity on dolls/toys or in the role play area with their peers, drawing pictures that are inappropriate for a child, talking about sexual activities or using sexual language or words. The child may become worried when their clothes are removed, e.g. for nappy changes. Bruises between the legs and abnormal discharge can be one of the symptoms.

Emotional symptoms could include a distinct change in a child's behavior. They may be withdrawn or overly talkative and outgoing. They may withdraw away from a particular adult and become distressed if they reach out for them, but they may also be particularly clingy to a potential abuser so all symptoms and signs should be looked at together and assessed as a whole.

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### **Bullying:**

Bullying is defined as any sort of child abuse that is inflicted on them by their peers or adults, including teasing, being ignored or left out, being pulled or shoved around, or having their belongings or money seized.

### **Violence against children:**

Use of force against any child by anyone would lead to harm or injury.

### **Child Pornography:**

Child is shown in a disgraceful manner in a sexual act or sexual show.

### **Recognition of Child Abuse**

The following list, while not entire, may be indicative of some of the symptoms and signs of child abuse. However, it should be emphasized that some of these symptoms and indicators may also occur in stressed children and do not always indicate that a child is being abused.

### **Indicators of Abuse**

- Injuries to the child that are not consistent with the normal play activities of a child, either in position or type
- Unpredictable or unreasonable explanation of an injury by a child, parent, or carer
- Inconsistent or inappropriate behavior such as sexually explicit remarks or actions, mood swings, uncharacteristically quiet/aggressive, severe tantrums.
- Becoming isolated socially
- Overeating, loss of appetite, weight loss, weight gain.
- Inappropriately dressed or ill-kept and/or dirty
- Self-inflicting injury
- Open doubt of, or discomfort with, parent or carer
- Delayed social development, poor language, and speech
- Excessively nervous behavior, such as rocking or hair twisting
- Low self-esteem

### **General indicators of abuse, though often typical of sexual abuse**

- Recurring Abdominal Pain
- Reluctance to go home
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Recurring headaches

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- Child having a mobile phone
- Infections – UTI's or STI's
- Scaring / bleeding / bruising
- Attending nursery with more luxurious items
- Different carers collecting

### **Recording and Reporting of an Incident**

Every Staff should understand that any incidences must be documented. The importance of staff communication in such situations cannot be overstated. There are a number of actions that must be taken if a staff member believes that a kid is in danger

1. Report any specific worries you have to the Safeguarding lead/ Deputy Safeguarding lead who are the setting's child protection representatives.
2. Record your suspicions and give them to the Safeguarding lead/ Deputy Safeguarding lead

Records of suspicions must include the following information:

- Name and date of birth of the child
- The nature of the suspicion
- Details of any injury
- Times, dates, and any other relevant information
- Dates, times, and names of other adults involved with the child who may substantiate the suspicion
- The Safeguarding lead/ Deputy safeguarding lead in charge will then determine the situation and refer the case to families or the police to be in best interest of child.
- Make some brief notes as soon as possible after the conversation.
- Not destroy the original notes in case they are needed by a court.
- Record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behavior and the words used by the child.
- Draw a diagram to indicate the position of any bruising or other injury.
- Record statements and observations, rather than interpretations or assumptions.

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### **Disclosure of Abuse**

The staff member should comfort and assure the child that he/she did the right thing of informing the trusted staff of what is happening and be supportive to the child. Listen attentively while giving enough time for the child to process emotions, thoughts and express. When the child speaks to you, pay attention to what they say and write it down. At this point, it's crucial that you avoid interrupting the child and refrain from asking questions.

Provide comfort to children so that they can trust you. Do not put words or thoughts in a child's mouth or mind, do not suggest solutions and do not make any promises.

### **Responding to a Child who confides in you**

- Stay Calm
- Do not make promises you cannot keep
- Offer reassurance and support
  - Immediately inform Safeguarding lead/ Deputy Safeguarding lead
- Record the facts and discussion in the child's own words and give a copy to Safeguarding lead/ Deputy Safeguarding lead
- Do not take control of the situation yourself
- Maintain confidentiality
- Keep records

### **WHAT TO DO ON DISCLOSURE:**

Stay calm

(Don't over-react, however shocked you may be)



Listen, hear and believe

(Listen carefully, take it seriously)



Give time for the person to say what they want

(Don't make assumptions and don't offer alternative explanations, ask questions beginning with -Tell me about...Explain...Describe... Avoid 'who, what, when, where' questions)



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Reassure and explain that they have done the right thing in telling.

(Do not promise confidentiality; explain that only those persons who need to know will be informed with intention of best interest of child)



Record in writing as near verbatim as possible and as soon as possible on a Disclosure Form

(Use the child's own words, make your record as soon as possible after the event, so that you don't forget anything, and include information about what action was taken afterwards)



Report to the **Safeguarding Lead – KidZone Al Dhait Branch Manager**



Incase Safeguarding lead is on leave,

Report to the Deputy **Safeguarding lead- Head Teacher**

**All parents should be aware that members of staff attend regular child protection training in order to keep their children safe from harm.**

**The Nursery has a duty to report any suspicions of abuse and neglect to any of the contacts below**

### **Staff Should:**

- Contribute to the creation of a culture where everyone is valued and treated with respect and decency.
- Always prioritize a child's care, welfare, and safety needs.
- Respect a child's right to participate in decisions and choices that have a direct impact on them.
- Any opinions or ideas a child wants to share with you deserve your full attention.
- Respect a child's right to privacy and personal space.
- Respect a child's culture (for instance, their faith and values).
- Respond carefully to kids who look uncomfortable about taking part in particular activities.
- Speak to a staff member right away if you think a kid is being bullied or harassed.
- Be aware of the vulnerability of some groups of children to being isolated and hurt.
- Ensure that when you are working with children you are at least within sight of or hearing of other adults.
- When a child "tells you" that they are being hurt (sometimes through drawings and behavior in addition to words), pay close attention and report what you see right away to the safeguarding lead/ deputy safeguarding lead.

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- Any indication that a child might be harmed or subjected to abuse should be reported promptly.
- Never discount a child's claims as fabrications or exaggerations.
- Restrict a child only when they are about to hurt themselves or someone else.
- Never undervalue your ability to contribute to the creation of child -friendly communities.

### Staff Should Not:

- Exaggerate or downplay another employee's worries about a child or fail to act on a report of abuse in the hopes that it would either go away or be handled by someone else.
- Discuss intimate matters involving a child or their family with others, unless doing so would endanger the child's welfare.
- Be tempted to make offensive gestures or comments in front of children or teenagers.
- Permit anyone within the organization to bully or injure a child or young person.
- Permit child to swear or speak in a sexualized manner.

Reviewed by: Jaya Mishra/ Shamoona Samreen

Date: 03.07.2024

Approved by: Anoud Fahad

Date: 09.07.2024

ABUSE DATA REPORT								
NAME OF CHILD	D.O.B/ SAP NO	DATE AND TIME OF DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE	NATURE OF ABUSE	REPORTED BY	DETAILS OF INJURY	SUSPICIOUS NAME	INFORMED PARENTS /CONTACT NO	FOLLOW UP

NAME OF PROTECTION TEAM MANAGER/





# Safeguarding & Child Protection

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Child Protection Officer (CPO):

SIGNATURE:

DATE AND TIME

### ABUSE DISCLOSURE REPORT

CHILD NAME:

DATE OF DISCLOSURE

CHILD DOB:

TIME OF DISCLOSURE

REPORTED BY:

AGE-GROUP:

REPORTED TO:

FORM OF ABUSE:

DETAILS OF ABUSE:

STEPS TAKEN:



# Policy

## Safeguarding & Child Protection

SIGNATURE:

SAFEGUARDING LEAD

SIGNATURE:

REPORTING STAFF

SIGNATURE:

DEPUTY SAFEGUARDING LEAD

SIGNATURE:

PARENT