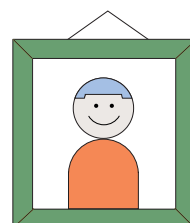
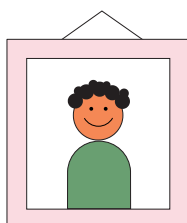
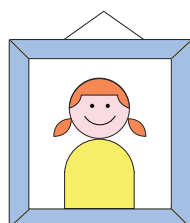


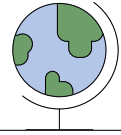
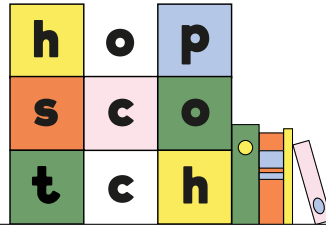
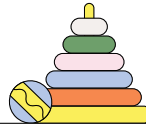
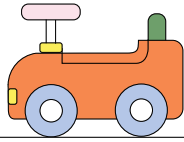
Safeguarding at Hopscotch

Safeguarding young people is about much more than child protection. It means taking a comprehensive approach that prevents young people from any potential source of harm.

At Hopscotch Nursery, we take the protection and safeguarding of children very seriously: young children are vulnerable and only develop resilience when their physical and psychological well-being is protected by adults.

Young children and babies are particularly vulnerable as they have little sense or awareness of danger and only learn to assess risks with the help of adults. All staff at Hopscotch are responsible for encouraging and facilitating the development of independence and self-assurance in the children that come to our nursery.





Child Abuse

Any child can be abused anywhere at any time. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable. Children can be abused by anyone- adults or even other children. Child abuse can take many forms and is more than simply bruises or broken bones. While physical abuse is shocking due to the scars it leaves, not all child abuse is as obvious. Ignoring children's needs, putting them in unsupervised, dangerous situations or making a child feel worthless or stupid are also child abuse. Regardless of the type of child abuse, the result is serious emotional harm. The four forms of abuse are:

Physical Abuse

This is when children are hurt or injured by others. It may result in unexplained injuries, bruises or marks, fear, watchfulness, over-anxiety to please, small round burns or bites and frequent absences from nursery (see adjacent diagram for unusual injury sites).

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is taking place when children are used by others to meet their own sexual needs. This might include sexual activity involving the child or showing children pornographic material. If you notice that a child comments on sexual activities, behaves in a sexual manner that is inappropriate for a child, has repeated urinary or genital infections or has an unexpected fear or wariness towards people, these could be signs of sexual abuse.

Emotional Abuse

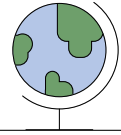
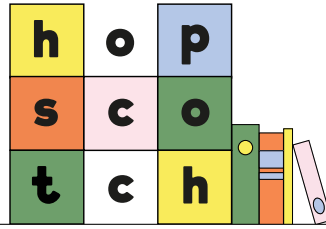
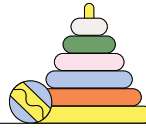
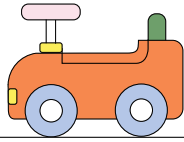
When a child is persistently denied love and affection, this is emotional abuse. Children will suffer if they are shouted at, made to feel stupid, rejected or have to live in a violent environment. This may result in withdrawn, anxious behaviour, a lack of self confidence, demanding or attention seeking behaviour or it may manifest as repetitive, nervous behaviour.

Neglect

When no one meets a child's basic need for food, warmth, protection, education and care, they are neglecting the child. If a child displays poor hygiene, is frequently in dirty, unwashed clothes, has a lot of accidents or is looking pale and lacking energy, they may be suffering from neglect.

If you see any of these symptoms or if you feel uneasy about a child's well-being, there is a nursery policy on how you should proceed.





What you should do:

- Listen carefully to what the child tells you.
- Take what the child says seriously.
- Offer reassurance to the child.
- Assure the child that you will take action.

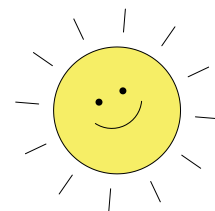
You must not:

- Question, judge or make promises to the child.
- Press the child for explanations.
- Be afraid to voice your concerns– the child may need urgent protection and help.

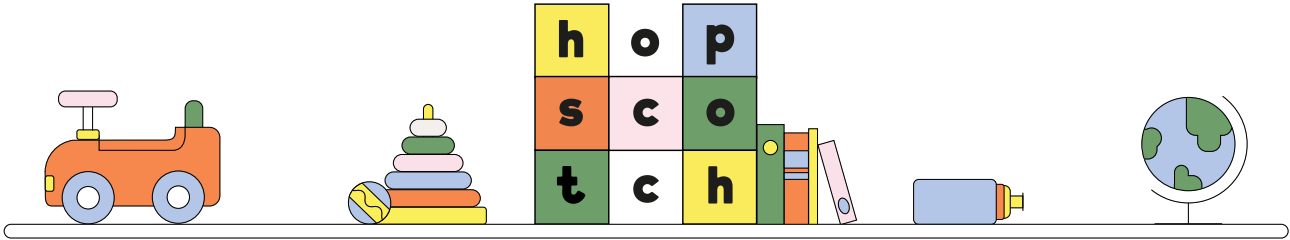
Immediately after talking to the child, you should make a written record of:

- The child's name.
- The date and time of the observation/disclosure.
- The exact words spoken by the child.
- Your name.

Unusual sites for injuries in children:



This information is confidential and must not be shared or discussed with others. You must immediately speak with your team leader, who will inform the nursery manager. Your concerns will be taken very seriously and whatever you say will be treated in confidence. Because of the highly confidential nature of disclosures you may not be kept informed if an enquiry begins, but your alertness will have been the important first step in protecting the child.



Safeguarding children

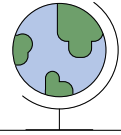
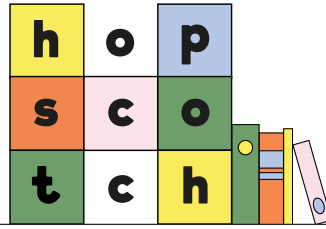
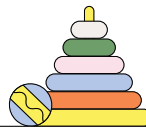
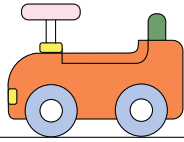
Child protection is not limited to identifying and reporting abuse. It also concerns giving children choices, keeping them safe from other forms of harm and explaining boundaries to them.

There are many ways by which we keep children safe in nursery, such as:

- Having clear boundaries and explaining them to children helps. Children understand why rules exist. Therefore, it is good practice to consistently reinforce and also explain to children why they can only run in certain areas of the nursery, that they must hold onto the banister to be safe on the stairs.
- We operate a system of positive reinforcement in the nursery. This will prove most successful if we ensure that the activities we provide are stimulating and enjoyable for the children, as they are less likely to display inappropriate behaviour when they are fully engaged and engrossed.
- A consistent approach to all aspects of nursery life is extremely important, as it helps children feel confident because they know what to expect and what is acceptable.
- Remember to listen to the children. Ensure that they feel they can trust you and talk to you. This is especially important for your key children.



See our Safeguarding Policy for more information on all of the above.



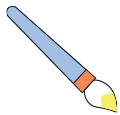
Whistleblowing Policy

Staff are encouraged to inform the manager of any instances of unsatisfactory practice that they observe whilst working in the nursery.

Staff are encouraged to discuss any concerns that they have at staff meetings, team meetings, appraisals etc. The manager also operates an open door policy for all staff, and so everyone should feel able to express concerns at any time.

For further reading and information on this matter, please refer to:

- *The nursery policy folder.*



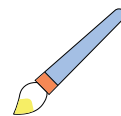
- *The Children's Act 2004.*

- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*

- *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused.*

- *The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.*

- *Every Child Matters.*



- *Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board.*

- *The Prevent Duty 2016, free online course can also be found: http://course.ncalt.com/channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html*