

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE WELFARE OF A CHILD WHO YOU KNOW

Everyone has a responsibility to report any concerns they have that a child is being neglected or abused. Professionals can only become involved in helping a child, if we know that the family is having problems. We need people to tell us about their concerns. You don't have to give us your name if you do not want to.

If you have any concerns about a child there are a number of ways you can let us know. You can speak in confidence to a professional you know, e.g. a teacher at the local school, staff at the children's centre, a health visitor or doctor, and they will ensure your worries are passed on and the child's situation is looked into.

If you are so worried that you feel immediate action is needed please contact the numbers below.

WHO TO CONTACT:

If you have any concerns about a person or organisation who looks after your child, you can ring Sheffield Information Link (SIL) on **(0114) 275 6699**, call to 11 Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GY, email them on info@sheffinfolink.org.uk or visit their website at www.sheffinfolink.org.uk.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child contact:

Sheffield Children's Social Care: **(0114) 273 4855** or
South Yorkshire Police Tel: **(0114) 220 2020**.

In an emergency you should always ring 999

If you have any doubts about sharing or reporting your concerns

Don't think what if I'm Wrong – Think What if I'm Right

Keeping Children Safe is Everybody's Business

This leaflet is produced by Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board
www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk
(0114) 273 4450 / 5195

THE INTERNET, MOBILE PHONES AND ONLINE GAMES

Many children and teenagers spend a lot of time on the computer or their mobile phone, which may have Internet access. The Internet is a fabulous and exciting way of communicating, learning, and entertaining. However, we need to make sure that our children are using it safely.

Some adults who want to abuse children use the Internet to access them. They are clever and know how to approach potential victims, often posing as children themselves \\ **Pornography can be accessed via the Internet, as well as other offensive, inappropriate or illegal material such as extremist, racist, pro-suicide or eating disorder websites** \\ **Emails, Internet chat rooms, web cams, online gaming and mobile phones can be used to bully (cyberbullying) and exploit children and to send them inappropriate images** \\ **Children can be bullied because of their race, sexuality, ability or for other reasons** \\ **Children and young people can be exploited financially through scams and online gaming.**



Ask yourself...

- \\How much do I know about what websites my child is visiting?
- \\How can I make it safe for my child to learn, communicate with friends and have fun on the Internet?
- \\How do I get parental controls installed to prevent my child accessing unsuitable websites?
- \\What ground rules do I set about the amount of time my child spends online?
- \\Have I warned my child about being careful to whom they give their mobile phone number and email address, or about arranging to meet someone they have met online?

For further information contact: www.thinkuknow.co.uk for information on internet safety; www.digizen.org for information on cyberbullying; www.ceop.gov.uk (0870 000 3344) to report child abuse; or www.iwf.org.uk to report Internet material that you think may be illegal.

CHILDREN INVOLVED IN EMPLOYMENT, ENTERTAINMENT AND PERFORMANCE

If children are of compulsory school age and employed, a work permit must be obtained from the Local Authority. Children may also require a performance licence if they are involved in entertainment, to ensure the child's medical, educational and other needs are met.

Keeping Children Safe



A Guide for Parents and Carers



children safeguarding



You and your child

We often think that people, especially those who work with children, can be trusted. But you need to make sure that your child is always safe.

This guide provides a checklist to help you know what questions to ask when your child is in contact with, or in the care of, other people and what to do if you have any concerns. We also give you information about what to do if you have any concerns about the welfare of a child who you know.

The law says that a child is anyone under the age of 18. We have different concerns about our children depending on their age, circumstances and abilities. The information provided here should be considered for all children and young people, up until their 18th birthday.

PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS WHO LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILD

There are many different types of organisations and workers with whom your child may be involved. You need to be able to reassure yourself that your child's safety and wellbeing is protected.

PEOPLE WHO LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILD

May include

\\babysitters \\childminders \\crèche workers \\volunteers \\nannies \\residential staff \\your new partner or a partner of people close to you \\step relatives \\in-laws \\brothers and sisters \\parents of your children's friends

Ask yourself...

\\What do I know about this person? \\Do I know this person well enough before I trust them with my child? \\If I am employing them, can they provide trustworthy references? \\Do I have their address and telephone number and do they have mine? \\Is my child happy to talk about what they do together?



ORGANISATIONS THAT LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILD

May include

\\primary and secondary schools \\residential schools \\school bus \\taxi drivers and escorts \\midday supervisors \\after school activities \\traffic crossing wardens \\colleges \\private tutors \\adult activities that provide child care

\\Uniformed activities such as cubs or guides \\cinema \\bowling \\sports clubs \\martial arts \\music lessons \\hobby clubs \\theatre and drama \\outdoor pursuits \\swimming \\ice skating \\dance \\activities in public parks

\\churches \\mosques \\madrasahs \\sunday schools \\temples \\synagogues \\chapels \\house churches or youth groups in someone's home

Ask yourself...

\\Does the organisation have a child protection policy that I can have a copy of? \\Do I know that they have done checks on staff and volunteers? \\Will my child be supervised by a safe adult at all times? \\Are there adequate staff for the numbers of children? \\Do they keep my child safe with good security? \\Is there an effective anti-bullying strategy? \\Do the adults create a happy atmosphere and treat the children with respect? \\Are my child's specific needs being properly catered for? \\Is my child happy to tell me about activities and people? \\Have I got any concerns about the organisation or people associated with it? \\Do the staff have my details and know how to contact me?

YOU AND OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN



\\Licensed premises – be aware that children may be at risk in pubs, clubs and other public venues if they are not properly supervised, if the adults they are with become intoxicated, if they themselves are allowed to drink alcohol or if the surroundings are unsuitable.

\\Domestic abuse and violence – it is important to remember that children are always affected by living in an atmosphere of domestic abuse, whether or not they are directly abused themselves.

\\Private fostering – if you know of a child or young person under the age of 16, or under the age of 18 if they are disabled, who is living informally for more than 28 days with adults who are not members of their family, the Local Authority must be informed so that a social worker can visit and check the arrangements.

PREVENTING ACCIDENTS

Accidental injuries can have a major impact on the health of your child. They are the commonest cause of death in children over the age of 1. Every year accidents can leave many thousands of children and young people permanently disfigured or injured. Those who are most at risk from an accident in the home are children under 4 years old. Most non-fatal accidents are due to falls but the largest number of deaths are due to fire. Most of these accidents are preventable through increased awareness, improvements in the home environment and greater product safety.

For further information and advice contact the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
www.rosopa.com/homesafety/advice/child/accidents.htm or telephone them on 0121 248 2000