



Death of a Child On-Site

Introduction

The death of a child on-site is an exceptionally rare and tragic event. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed in the event of such an incident, ensuring swift action, emergency support, and comprehensive care for children, staff, and families.

Aim

To respond promptly and effectively in the event of the death of a child while ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of all affected individuals.

Objectives

We aim to:

- Provide immediate care and emergency response
- Notify parents, trustees, and statutory authorities promptly
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding and statutory reporting requirements
- Support staff, children, and families through appropriate follow-up

Procedures

1. Identifying

- If it is suspected that a child has died in the setting, a qualified First Aider will begin emergency resuscitation immediately while waiting for the ambulance to arrive
- Only a medical professional can confirm death

2. Informing

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) ensures that emergency services (ambulance and police) are contacted immediately
- Parents are contacted and asked to come to the setting or hospital depending on emergency service advice:
 - The incident is shared sensitively, without confirming the child's condition, and parents are asked to attend urgently
- Trustees are notified, and the DSL is to complete a **Confidential Safeguarding Incident Report Form**
- One staff member is delegated to call the parents of other children to request early collection:
 - All messages must be agreed by the DSL and shared consistently
- The police will advise whether and how long the setting should remain closed
- The nominated person informs Ofsted, and a RIDDOR report is completed
- Staff are instructed not to speak to the press

3. Responding

- **Investigation:**
 - The trustees, in consultation with relevant agencies, decide how the incident will be investigated internally
- **Support:**
 - Trustees coordinate emotional and practical support for:
 - Staff



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- Children attending the setting
- Families, as appropriate
- External support services (e.g., bereavement counsellors) may be engaged

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually or earlier if legislation, local safeguarding protocols, or an incident requires an immediate update.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy aligns with the following:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2023)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013)

Acknowledgment

All staff, trustees, volunteers, and parents must acknowledge that they have read and understood this policy. By doing so, they commit to following the outlined procedures in the event of a tragic incident to ensure the well-being of all involved.