

# Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

**kidsunlimited** is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children in which to be cared and educated. We believe that it is always unacceptable for a child to experience abuse of any kind and we recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide protection for all the children who are in our care
- provide all staff with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm – including how to make a referral.
- provide all staff with guidance on what will happen if an allegation is made against them

This policy applies to all staff including nursery, office, regional and agency staff as well as students, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the company.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse and have the right to freedom from abuse
- working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all our staff need to be carefully selected and trained, and accept responsibility for safeguarding children in their care.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines and statutory requirements through detailed procedures
- adopting a code of conduct for staff, parents and visitors
- responding quickly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse or issues relating to child welfare
- working in partnership with parents, carers, families and children and providing them with the opportunities to voice any concerns they may have
- recruiting staff safely and ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with parents and staff
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for all staff through induction, supervision, support and appropriate safeguarding training
- ensuring that confidential information is stored and managed in accordance with national guidance

We are also committed to ensuring that our Safeguarding Children policies and procedures are live documents that are continually reviewed and updated.

This policy has been produced in line with the Government publication *Working together to Safeguard Children 2006* and the statutory welfare requirements set out in *The Early Years Foundation Stage May 2008*.