

OUR CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

Hutton Playgroup

Registered Charity No. 1089042

All children whatever their age, background, religion or family circumstances have a fundamental right to be offered care and protection by those responsible for their safety and well-being. Most of the time this means parents and carers, but when children attend Hutton Playgroup, the responsibility to safeguard and protect children becomes the job of other adults, even if only for a short time.

Hutton Playgroup is required by law to safeguard and protect the interests of children placed in our care. We do this by making sure that we have staff who are trained to help any children who may be unhappy or worried, or who may be having difficulties at home. As part of Playgroup's curriculum, we teach children the importance of taking care of themselves and others and we make sure that children know to whom they can turn for help and advice if for whatever reason their parents are not able to help.

We encourage children and parents to talk to us or to seek help, if they are worried, just as we will usually talk to parents if we are concerned about anything to do with their child. There are times when parents may need our support or advice so they can help their child. Support may be available from school, the local education authority and also from social services and other agencies who may also be able to offer assistance. We would not share information with these other agencies or ask them to visit you without your consent.

There may however be occasions when staff have serious worries and believe that a child is at risk of serious harm. Hutton Playgroup, like others, must follow the procedures which are laid down by the government for protecting children. In these circumstances we must make contact with the local social service office and share our concern. In most circumstances we will tell you we are doing this. In social services, there are specialized workers who would then decide how best to help and support the family. If they feel a child is in danger, these workers can also take steps to make sure the child is safe. Within our setting we have policies to ensure that our staff behave properly and professionally towards the children with whom they work and so that all staff know what to do if they become worried about a child. Any parent wishing to view this document may do so upon request.

We take seriously our responsibility to look after the interests of your children, not just because we are required to do so by law, but also because we recognize that in order to learn and develop, children need to feel safe and secure and they need to feel valued. To this end, we recognize the importance of our role in working with you as parents and with your child.