



## Early Years Services January 2011

1.1 Early Years Services – children’s centres, nurseries, childminders, preschools, playgroups, and holiday and out-of-school schemes – all play an important part in the lives of large numbers of children. Many childcare providers have considerable experience of working with families where a child needs to be safeguarded from harm, and many local authorities provide, commission or sponsor specific services, including childminders, to work with children in need and their families.

All early years providers, regardless of type, size or funding of the setting, must:

- Take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Promote the good health of children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action when they are ill;
- Manage children’s behaviour effectively, and in a manner appropriate for their stage of development and particular individual needs; and
- Ensure that adults looking after children, or having unsupervised access to them, are suitable to do so.

1.2 These general welfare requirements are set out in detail in the *Statutory Framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)* and must be implemented by all childcare providers registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register.

1.3 Millions of families use early year services on an annual basis, meaning that early years services are a key route through which welfare concerns can be identified early in a child’s life. The EYFS makes clear that all registered providers, excepting childminders, must have a practitioner who is designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children within each early years setting and who should liaise with local statutory children’s services agencies as appropriate. This lead must also attend a child protection course. This requirement is supported by training available through the EYCS training programme. In addition, all early years settings must implement an effective safeguarding children policy and procedure. All other childcare providers are expected to follow the good practice set out in the EYFS and to follow BSCB procedures.

1.4 It is expected that every person working in the early years sector should have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding children issues and be able to implement their setting’s safeguarding children policy and procedure appropriately. These policies should be in line with BSCB guidance and procedures.

1.5 The EYFS also makes clear that registered early years providers should follow the guidance *What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused*. Such providers must notify local child protection agencies of any suspected child abuse or neglect in line with BSCB local guidance and procedures.