

Designated Safeguarding Role – Ladybird Montessori Nursery

At Ladybird Montessori Nursery, the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** plays a critical role in ensuring the safety, welfare, and protection of every child in our care. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, but the DSL provides leadership, guidance, and oversight to ensure all safeguarding procedures are understood and followed effectively by staff.

Key Responsibilities of the DSL at Ladybird Montessori Nursery:

- 1. Lead on Safeguarding and Child Protection:**
 - Take overall responsibility for all safeguarding and child protection matters within the nursery.
 - Ensure that all concerns about a child's welfare are taken seriously and acted upon in line with nursery policies and statutory guidance.
- 2. Staff Training and Awareness:**
 - Ensure all staff receive safeguarding induction training and are kept up to date with regular refreshers.
 - Support staff in recognising the signs of abuse, neglect, or harm and knowing how to respond appropriately.
- 3. Responding to Concerns:**
 - Act as the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns, allegations, or disclosures.
 - Record and manage concerns confidentially and securely.
 - Make timely referrals to external agencies (e.g., local authority children's services) when necessary.
- 4. Liaison with External Agencies:**
 - Maintain strong working relationships with local safeguarding partners, including the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**, health professionals, and social workers.
 - Represent the nursery at child protection meetings, case conferences, and multi-agency discussions when needed.
- 5. Monitoring and Record Keeping:**
 - Keep accurate and confidential safeguarding records for all concerns raised.
 - Monitor vulnerable children and ensure there is follow-up on any ongoing safeguarding issues.
- 6. Policy Development and Implementation:**
 - Review and update the nursery's safeguarding policies and procedures regularly.
 - Ensure policies reflect current legislation and are fully embedded in day-to-day practice.
- 7. Family and Child Support:**
 - Work closely with children and their families to promote well-being, offer support, and build trusting relationships.
 - Ensure families are aware of the nursery's safeguarding responsibilities and how they can raise concerns.
- 8. Deputising and Continuity:**
 - Ensure a **Deputy DSL** is in place and appropriately trained to take responsibility in the DSL's absence.

- Work as a team to ensure safeguarding cover is always available during nursery hours.

Commitment to Safeguarding

At Ladybird Montessori Nursery, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment for all children. Safeguarding is at the heart of our practice, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead plays a vital role in upholding this commitment.