

Safeguarding Your Child

Help for parents

In this fact sheet we want to offer practical help and support for you with respect to the safety and the rights of your child when accessing childcare or leisure activities.

In Doncaster there is the Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Board which aims to ensure local organisations work effectively together to safeguard Doncaster's children and young people and protect them from harm.

This means that there is support around for the people who are offering to deliver childcare or leisure activities.

What do I need to look out for as a parent?

Ofsted Registered Childcare

Most people who want to provide childcare for children aged under eight, for more than two hours in any one day, **must** register with Ofsted before they can become childcare providers. There is a second group of people who can choose whether or not to join the **voluntary part of the Childcare Register**, which is open to those who want to register but do not have to do so. This group includes:

- People who care for children aged 8 years+
- Home-based carers such as nannies who work in the parents home
- Other providers not currently required to register such as those who provide sports coaching, some after school clubs etc
- Provision where parents remain onsite or in close proximity to their children such as shoppers' crèches operating up to 4 hours each day

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Checks

All registered childcare providers must have a full enhanced CRB check. In the case of childminders, anyone over the age of 16 years living or working in the house where care is provided must also be CRB checked. People such as cleaners or regular visitors may also be checked.

Information can be made available in other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape on request. If you know someone who may need this service, please contact a member of staff for more information or if you need any other help or advice.

The Criminal Records Bureau is an Executive Agency of the Home Office which provides criminal records information by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially that involving children or vulnerable adults.

Child Protection Policy

If you are taking your child to an activity, group or centre you should check if they have a child protection policy in place. All agencies working with children, young people and their families should have one which shows they are taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.

The policy should outline their safe recruitment procedures for staff, reporting procedures for allegations of abuse, including contacts in children's services or social services, and as a parent you are entitled to ask for a copy.

Who do I talk to if I have any concerns about keeping children safe?

If you have concerns that a child or children is in danger of being harmed you should take action straight away, regardless of whether the provider is registered. You can contact the Children's Social Care Services Emergency Duty Team (see details below) or the police on 01142 20 20 20.

If you have issues with a registered childcare provider you should raise them with the provider first if you feel confident to do so. You can also contact Ofsted (see details below) if the issue is concerning the care of the children and if you are not satisfied with the provider's response.

If you have issues with an unregistered provider you should raise them if possible with the provider in the first instance and then contact the Doncaster Council's Children's Social Care Services.

For more information contact:

Write to: Doncaster Council, Families Information Service, Early Years & Childcare Service, Richmond Hill, Melton Road, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7SB
Telephone: 0800 138 4568 (9.00am – 5.00pm plus out of hours answering service available)
Email: fis@doncaster.gov.uk
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk

Other useful contact details:

- **Ofsted** – Tel: 0300 123 1231 (Helpline & Complaints) www.ofsted.gov.uk
- **Doncaster Council's Children's Social Care Services** – Tel: 01302 737796 (including Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team)
- **Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board** – Email: dscb@doncasterpct.nhs.uk

Information can be made available in other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape on request. If you know someone who may need this service, please contact a member of staff for more information or if you need any other help or advice.