

Indicators of Child Abuse – Guidance June 2025

Safeguarding: everyone’s responsibility

- Whatever your role at BDSIP everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe.
- Your eyes and ears could make a difference and add a vital piece to the puzzle
- You should always act in the best interests of the child.
- Always report any concerns, about children and about staff, immediately, to the DSL, however small you think it may be.
- If you aren’t sure about something, ask.

Things to look out for when working with children and young people (NB this list is not exhaustive)

- Changes in behaviour – becoming withdrawn, angry, aggressive, challenging
- Being evasive or secretive
- Going missing from home, school or care/poor school attendance
- Unusually sexualised language or behaviour
- Engaging in age or subject inappropriate conversations
- Self-harm or mental health issues
- Displaying fear towards particular people or places
- Looking dirty or wearing dirty, torn or smelly clothing
- Inappropriately dressed for the weather.
- Showing hunger, stealing food.
- Insubstantial packed lunch.
- Bruising, unusual injuries such as burns.
- Suddenly having unexplained sources of money
- A child flinching slightly when touched or startled
- Drawings, writing, or play that contain worrying themes
- Whispered conversations about things that “mustn’t be told”
- Unexplained anxiety about going home or about a particular adult
- Not wanting to attend school or leave parent
- Fighting with peers

+++++