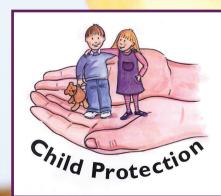


# Early Years and Childcare



## Your child's safety – 10 things you should know



Essex County Council

# What is safeguarding?

1. In a nutshell, safeguarding is about keeping children safe and protecting them from all types of harm.
2. Whether you use a childminder, nursery, preschool, holiday club, or after school club most providers have to register with Ofsted, who will inspect them regularly to make sure that your child has the best possible care.

You can find out more in the guide *Inspecting registered childcare providers: information for parents* which is available on the gov.uk website.

3. All childcare providers have to keep your children safe whilst in their care and most providers will need to have a written policy about how they do this. You can ask to see this if it hasn't been shared with you.
4. Your childcare provider should share any concerns about your child with you. However, please be aware that they have a legal duty to report any worries that they may have if they suspect a child may have been harmed.
5. All childcare providers must have a person who is specially trained and qualified to manage any safeguarding concerns. You should be told the name of this person. If you are using a childminder, this will be the childminder themselves.
6. All staff working in early years and childcare settings must have checks before they are employed to make sure that they are suitable to work with your child.
7. When employing new staff a childcare provider must also obtain suitable references and should check them before they employ anyone.

8. All members of staff should have safeguarding training which is renewed regularly.
9. You should be told how to raise an issue or make a complaint if you are unhappy about anything.
10. Does your child have music lessons or attend a sports club or something similar? Take a look at the guidance *Choosing a club, tutor or coach?* which is available on the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board (ESCB) website along with more useful information at [escb.co.uk](http://escb.co.uk)

## Making a complaint about your childcare provider

If you are concerned about any aspect of the care provided for your child, speak to the setting about your concerns. This will often solve most problems. If you are still not satisfied you might need to ask them about their complaints procedure.

If you have made a formal complaint and feel it is unresolved you can contact Ofsted, which can investigate complaints or concerns about the quality of childcare provided by Ofsted-registered childcare providers or childminders, or about people providing childcare who are not registered with them.

Call them on **03330 123 4666**

If you have concerns for a child's safety or wellbeing call Health and Social Care on: **0345 603 7627**

This information is issued by:  
**Essex County Council**  
**Early Years and Childcare**

Contact us:  
**[early.years@essex.gov.uk](mailto:early.years@essex.gov.uk)**

Early Years and Childcare  
Essex County Council  
County Hall, Chelmsford  
Essex, CM1 1QH

Sign up to Keep Me Posted  
email updates:  
**[essex.gov.uk/keepmeposted](http://essex.gov.uk/keepmeposted)**

 **Essex\_CC**  
 **[facebook.com/essexcountycouncil](https://facebook.com/essexcountycouncil)**

The information contained in  
this document can be translated,  
and/or made available in alternative  
formats, on request.

Published May 2017.