

Promote, Prevent and Protect the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

What do we need to know
and how can we help?

Aims and objectives

- To have a better understanding of child protection and safeguarding
- To learn more about the categories of abuse
- To be able to identify whether a child may be at risk of abuse
- To be confident to make a referral if you are concerned about a child or young person

Who's responsibility is it to safeguard children?

It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard children and young people. We all have a duty of care.

What is confidentiality?

The state of keeping or being kept secret or private.

–UK dictionary

In some circumstances, this can be overridden if it is done to protect the persons best interest or the interests of the public (information suggesting risk of harm).

What is the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

- Safeguarding means:
- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Types of abuse

WHAT ARE THE FOUR CATEGORIES OF ABUSE?

Child protection is about keeping children and young people safe from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Signs of possible abuse

Signs of abuse can range from injury to changes in the way a child acts.

Physical Abuse Signs:

- ◉ unexplained or untreated injuries
- ◉ cigarette burns, bite or belt marks
- ◉ covering their arms or legs unnecessarily
- ◉ flinching when they are touched

*These are some examples and not an exhaustive list

Emotional Abuse signs:

- ◉ self-harming
- ◉ showing extreme emotion
- ◉ sudden speech disorders
- ◉ delayed development in babies

*These are some examples and not an exhaustive list

Neglect

- ◉ poor personal hygiene
- ◉ constantly hungry
- ◉ underweight
- ◉ dishevelled appearance

*These are some examples and not an exhaustive list

Sexual Abuse

- ◉ stomach pains
- ◉ inappropriate (sexually explicit) language or behaviour
- ◉ aggressive or withdrawn behaviour
- ◉ pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in the genital area.

*These are some examples and not an exhaustive list

FGM- Female Genital Mutilation

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime in this country. It is also a crime to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.
- FGM is any procedure that is meant to change or injure a girl's or woman's genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes called 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. It's mostly carried out on young girls.
- FGM procedures can cause: severe bleeding, infections, problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby
- **If you think a girl or woman is at risk of FGM**
- If you think a girl or young woman is at risk of FGM, you should phone 020 3373 4600 and report it immediately.
- If the child or young woman is at immediate risk call the police on 999.
- If the girl or woman has already been taken abroad, you should phone the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) on 020 7008 1500.
- If you are under 18 and think you may at risk of FGM, you should phone the Children's Rights Service on 0800 01542 443

Prevent Duty

- From 1st July 2015, schools and childcare providers have been required to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism.
- When children are young, parents are the main influence on their identity, so this is the time to emphasise positive messages about being comfortable with who you are.
- As they enter their teenage years, young people naturally start to look for a separate identity. New friends, music, clothes and interests are a normal part of being a teen – but this doesn't mean parents stop having an influence. There are lots of ways for parents to send positive messages to children of all ages.

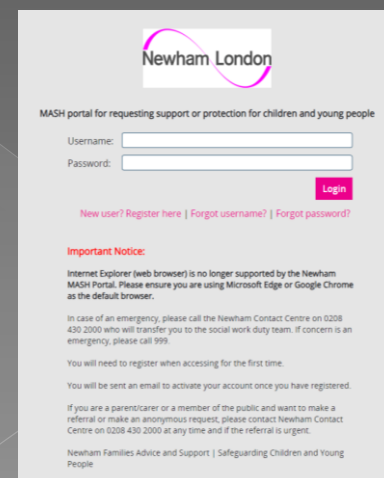
Early Intervention

- Universal Services
(GP, Health visitors, Schools, Nurseries and Children's Centre)
- Early Help Partnership (Family support packages, Families First, Early Intervention given from external agencies)

We have our own Family Support Team on site. They provide targeted support to families who may be faced with issues that may be effecting their home lives.

Self referral or professional referrals can be made by visiting the Newham MASH portal. www.newham.gov.uk/mash
(you will need to register before requesting support/ protection.)

You can also speak to someone from Newham MASH
By calling: 0203 373 4600



The screenshot shows the Newham MASH portal login page. At the top is the Newham London logo. Below it is the text 'MASH portal for requesting support or protection for children and young people'. There are two input fields for 'Username:' and 'Password:', followed by a pink 'Login' button. Below the login fields are links for 'New user? Register here', 'Forgot username?', and 'Forgot password?'. An 'Important Notice' section follows, stating that Internet Explorer is no longer supported and recommending Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. It also provides emergency contact information: 'In case of an emergency, please call the Newham Contact Centre on 0208 430 2000 who will transfer you to the social work duty team. If concern is an emergency, please call 999.' Below this, it says 'You will need to register when accessing for the first time.' and 'You will be sent an email to activate your account once you have registered.' At the bottom, it says 'If you are a parent/carer or a member of the public and want to make a referral or make an anonymous request, please contact Newham Contact Centre on 0208 430 2000 at any time and if the referral is urgent.' and 'Newham Families Advice and Support | Safeguarding Children and Young People'.

Removing a child from his or her home

The local authorities rarely remove children from their home. The aim of intervention is to work with families to support and protect children.

A child is removed from his or her home with a court order if a judge decides there is a serious and immediate risk to the child's safety. In an emergency, the police have the power (under police protection) to remove a child for up to 72 hours.

Private fostering

What is private fostering?

If a child:

is under 16 years old (or under 18 if disabled) and lives away from the family home for more than 28 days and is not living with a close relative this counts as private fostering and you must tell us about it.

A [close relative](#) is grandparent, brother or sister, uncle or aunt, step-parent who is also a full or half relation by blood or marriage.

Private fostering can include:

- Children sent from abroad to live with another family in this country
- Children at boarding school who stay with another family during their school holidays
- Overseas students who are living with a carer or host family for more than 28 days
- A teenager living with friends or in the home of a boyfriend or girlfriend because they are not getting along with their own family
- Children living with another family because their own parents are ill, in hospital for a long time or because of family breakdown.

If you:

- Have asked someone else who is not a close relative to look after your child
- Are looking after a child who is not a close relative
- Are worried that a child might be being fostered privately
- Work with children and you know that a child is being privately fostered

you should phone on 020 8430 2000 or 0203 373 4600 and speak with someone from the Fostering Support Team or speak to someone from the School Safeguarding Team.

Why you must tell us about private fostering

Even if your child is not living with you, as a parent you are still responsible for your child. By law you must tell us about private fostering arrangements so that we can make sure that the child's care meets his or her needs, protect the child or young person.

It is a criminal offence not to report a private fostering arrangement if your child is being privately fostered or you are privately fostering a child.

E-SAFETY

When should my child start going online and using devices?

In the first 5 years of a child's life the focus should be on developing a child's communication, language, physical skills and emotional development. As such, the World Health Organisation recommends children should "sit less and play more". They recommend **no sedentary screen time at all for under 2-year-olds**. For children aged **2 - 4 years, a maximum of 1 hour per day sedentary screen time** is recommended (less is better). The main reason for this is that there is much more developmental benefit when children spend their time engaging in things like physical activity, social interactions and exploring literature with an adult, compared to being passive and sedentary in front of a screen.

What can you do to support your under 5?

This is not a complete list, but a range of strategies you can use to improve your child's online experience:

- **1. Explore together:** Explore your child's favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.

- **2. Talk to your child about their online experiences:** Start and continue regular conversations with your under 5 about what they enjoy doing online, introducing online safety messages. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce the message that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried, they can tell you or another adult they trust.
- **3. Supervise your under 5 while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult can supervise. Children under 5 **should not** access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.
- **4. Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the [internet matters site](#).
- **5. SafeSearch:** The use of 'SafeSearch' is recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which allows you to limit the material your child can see when they're online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to age inappropriate material.

- ◉ **6. Set boundaries:** As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access. On devices you do not wish your under 5 to access, use passwords and keep these out of reach of your child.
- ◉ **7. Lead by example:** Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be an effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

Useful online links for Parents/ Carers

- ◉ <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/> - Guide for parents around e-safety. Pantosaurus , undressed, Jessie and friends videos for children also on this website
- ◉ thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online
- ◉ CEOP section on this website has some great educational advice about keeping under5's safe. Signs of screen addiction – if there is a change in behaviour then this is an issue and the child may need some time off the screen

Useful numbers

- ◉ MASH - 0203 373 4600 or 020 8430 2000
- ◉ Early Help Partnership Team - 0203 373 4373
- ◉ NSPCC - 0808 800 5000
- ◉ Child Help Line - 0800 1111
- ◉ FGM SUPPORT (Manor Gardens health and Wellbeing)- 020 7272 4231
- ◉ 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247
- ◉ If you are in immediate danger call 999

**Open forum for questions
and queries.**

**Thank you for attending the
workshop at:
Rebecca Cheetham Nursery
and Children's Centre**