

Child Protection Policy and Procedures

Definition of Child of Child protection

UNICEF uses the term 'child protection' to refer to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children (UNICEF, 2006). Blue Bird Nursery is also committed and supports the "Wadeema Law" under the child's protection (Federal Law No. [3] of 2016) implemented by the Ministry of interior in 2016 in ensuring and reporting of child abuse cases to the stated authorities.

Overview

We at BBN consider safety to be a fundamental requirement and all measures and procedures have been taken into account to ensure that children attending Nursery are safe. Our doors have been installed with a magnetic lock and CCTV cameras monitoring all entries and departures. We have also appointed a full-time security guard who supervises and records all persons entering and exiting the Nursery. We have taken further precautions in including "person authorized to pick the child" in our admission forms that required parents/guardians to provide details about a secondary person, other than themselves authorized to pick the child up; this includes a provision of a valid Emirates ID and a picture of the person mentioned.

All areas in the Nursery have been installed with CCTV cameras, monitoring activities throughout the day; The Centre Manager and Admin assistance have access to view and record the events throughout the day. *(please refer to Health and Safety policy for a detailed description).*

Statement of assurance

1. All children's' integrity will be protected, preserving culture, religion and beliefs.
2. In times of conflict (divorce, disagreements) the child's interest will be placed first and all efforts to protect him/her from distress arising from the conflicts. The Nursery will not however act as a mediator; all resolves need to be settled and agreed presenting the Nursery Manager with the required custody documents entailing custody rights.

3. Children's Voices will always be heard- all efforts will be made to ensure that the child's welfare is placed first. Daily health check-ups by the nurse will ensure that any abnormalities are identified, investigated and reported.
4. Investigation conducted will protect the child's integrity and the child will in no way be humiliated or made to feel uncomfortable.
5. The staff conducting the investigation will ensure a high degree of confidentiality sharing the information with parents/guardians only.
6. Investigation findings will only be shared with the relevant authorities should the case prove to be a case of child abuse referring specifically to abnormal markings found on the child's body, neglect (unkempt clothing, hair, body), malnourishment and behavior not appropriate for the age group as mentioned in the developmental guidelines in the EYFS framework.

Principles

BBN child protection is based on the principles outlined below:

1. Recognize- During daily health check ups
2. Respond- Investigate (Consulting the teacher, discussing abnormalities)
3. Reassure- Comfort the child
4. Record- Noting down the findings
5. Report/Refer- Relevant authorities

Procedure

1. The nurse will use the daily health check list to identify any abnormalities in a child.
2. The Centre Manager will be notified immediately of any case of child abuse and investigation will commence with the initial stages in discussing behavior with the teacher.
3. All meetings and discussions will be carefully recorded; Centre Manager will then call the parents/guardians in to discuss the matter further.
4. The parents will then be required to issue a statement explaining the abnormalities in the child, and will be informed of regular observations to evaluate the child's behavior, social and emotional and physical welfare.
5. Should the evaluation indicate an increase of abuse, authorities will be informed immediately.



6. If the Abuse is found to be by a member of the BBN staff an immediate report to the relevant authorities will be made.