



## Safety information for parents and carers

### Safeguarding questions for parents and carers

For many parents the summer can be a time when they book their children into summer camps, activity days and child-care settings. Last year the government consulted on a voluntary safeguarding code for out-of-school settings (OOSS). Although the outcome of the consultation has not been published, a draft was made available. The draft guidance included questions for parents/carers to ask in advance of booking onto activities and red flags you should be aware of. Some of the questions you could ask include:

- Have staff and volunteers undertaken DBS checks? How recent were the checks?
- Will any adults besides the instructor be present at the venue while my child is there? If so, will they be there on a regular basis?
- What training have staff had?
- May I have a copy of your child protection policy?
- Who is your designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and what training have they had? How recent was this training?
- My child has Special Educational Needs and / or a disability (SEND). What steps will you take to accommodate this?
- My child needs help with: using the toilet; changing; feeding; their medication, etc. How will these personal care needs be addressed?
- How are you securely storing the information you hold on my child? Who has access to it and are you giving it to anyone else?
- Is my child allowed to access the internet unsupervised?
- Do you have filtering and monitoring systems in place? What are they?

The red flags are:

- Staff are not DBS checked
- No child protection policy
- Signs of abuse on other children who attend the setting, for example, unexplained bruises
- Provider unable to name a designated safeguarding lead
- The designated safeguarding lead has not had relevant training
- If the OOSS allows children access to the internet, no filtering or monitoring systems in place
- Dangerous physical environment e.g. loose wires, damp, no fire escape, no first aid kit
- No designated first aider
- No parental consent form or requirement for emergency contact details
- Other adults coming into the out-of-school setting who are not staff members / a lack of clarity on the roles of different adults in the setting
- No health and safety policy
- No fire escape plan

The draft guidance suggests that if 'red flags' are present you may wish to send your child to a 'different setting'.

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Believe it can be done.**



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### Water Safety

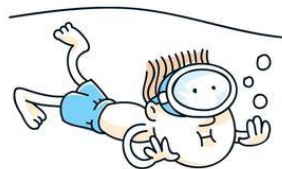
**Public Health colleagues in conjunction with Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board have requested that the following communication is shared parents/carers regarding water safety.**

As school holidays approach and the country experiences the current warm weather, children want to cool down quickly and have fun in the water.

It is important to remember that a child can drown within seconds. In particular, babies and small children can drown in very little water as they do not have the range of motion to move their heads. Child drowning is often silent and without struggle.

Wherever a child is enjoying the water there are a number of steps that can be taken to reduce risk and accident:

- Be vigilant; make sure your child is supervised at all times in or around water.
- Always swim at beaches and pools where there is a lifeguard.
- Make sure there is a fence around any garden pools or ponds.
- Familiarise yourself with the location of any ponds, lakes or pools at new locations.
- Make sure your child stays hydrated and takes regular breaks.
- Satisfy yourself that your child is not out of their depth when in water.
- Make sure paddling pools are emptied and turned upside down when not in use.
- Keep paddling and swimming pools free from trip hazards.
- Don't leave toys in paddling and swimming pools.
- Make sure your fence and gate is secure to ensure that your child can't access water hazards in neighbours' gardens.
- Supervise your child in the bath at all times, even if their elder sibling is present.
- Don't expect an elder child to be responsible for the safety of younger siblings.



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