

Child abuse linked to faith

[This video](#) is a very good introduction to child abuse linked to faith and belief (CALFB). This form of abuse is not linked to one faith, nationality or community, it is seen across multiple faiths including Christianity. Some children are more vulnerable to abuse than others, for example, children with disabilities or those that are extremely able, children who are considered naughty or challenging and even children who are left handed. Children who identify as LGBT+ are also more vulnerable to CALFB as are children who live with extended family or who are privately fostered. In short, it is nearly impossible to know who will abuse children because of their faith and belief and many people who hold such beliefs do not abuse children, making it very hard to identify.

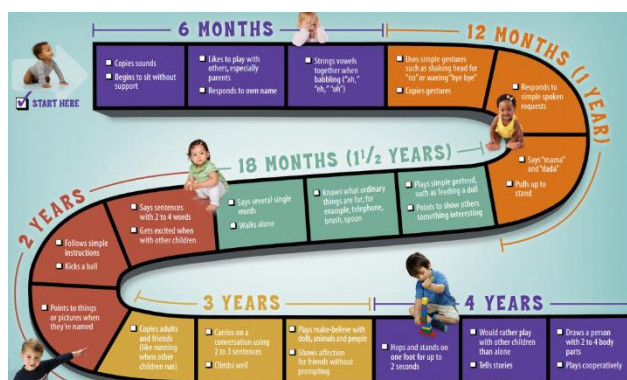


The best way to identify this form of abuse is to raise awareness about it because it is considered a hidden harm.

Ofsted has recently been focussing on child abuse linked to faith and belief when inspecting early years so it a very good idea to familiarise yourself with this type of harm. The National FGM Centre has some useful resources [here](#)

Free training for childminders and nurseries

[This](#) free Early Years and Child Development training course from the DfE covers all the important aspects of child development in 10 modules. Each module takes between 1-2 hours to complete and they must be completed in order. The first four modules are available now. The course combines theory with practical tips and includes videos, time to reflect on your practice and certificates of completion that you can download.



Smart watches and safeguarding

Smart watches can sometimes have cameras built in, such as the one in the picture here. They can also have their own internet connection.

Most have a remote control function to operate the camera on the linked mobile phone. It is therefore highly advisable to consider smart watches as part of your camera and mobile phone policy. We recommend that Smart Watches are not worn. If someone needs to monitor their health for medical reasons,

they do not need a smart watch, a simple fitbit will do the job. Some smart watches (those without built in cameras and internet) can be reduced to just the basic functions by switching off Bluetooth connection and putting phone into airplane mode. Phones must be stored away and not accessed.

Smart watches must be considered as part of your safeguarding policy.

Professional Curiosity

In mid March our Partnership event focussed on the topic of professional curiosity. This is about getting to know the children in your care and understanding their lived experience outside your setting. In its thematic analysis of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews involving Early years since 2017, the NSPCC identified a lack of professional curiosity and that EY practitioners need to be better able to identify indicators of child abuse, apply professional curiosity and take the child's lived experience into consideration. Understanding the child's home life and who is in the family and listening to what they

tell you with a curious ear, will help you to pick up on, and identify, emerging worries sooner. For example, the NSPCC noted that practitioners didn't always seek further information from children, parents or carers when children had bruises or injuries. This meant that possible child protection concerns weren't always recorded or responded to and practitioners weren't able to identify patterns of behaviour that might cause a concern.

In one situation, a manager dismissed concerns about a child having blue lips because the child was 'very small and feels the cold'. The child was later found to have been experiencing neglect and physical abuse.

Practitioners should work to build up a picture of a child's lived experience and show curiosity about their life outside of the setting, such as their home environment and family relationships. You can read the NSPCC review [here](#).

Professional curiosity was also noted to be lacking in a more recent report published by the NSPCC about case reviews regarding infants, which you can read [here](#).



Domestic Abuse News



Physical violence is just one type of abuse – domestic abuse can be any behaviour which is used to harm, punish or frighten you, or make you feel bullied, controlled or intimidated. This includes mental, sexual, financial and emotional abuse and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), so called “honour” based violence and forced marriage.

[Child to parent abuse](#) is a relatively new area of domestic abuse that is being increasingly recognised. Despite a commonly-held misconception that teenagers are responsible for the majority of Child to Parent Abuse cases, this is the second year in a row that a survey undertaken by Shrewsbury-based social enterprise PEGS revealed many parents experienced physical, verbal or other forms of abuse when their child was five or younger. Click the link to read more.

Support for victims of domestic abuse

Richmond borough – Refuge (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor(IDVA) and Outreach Service) **020 8943 8188** Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Kingston Borough - Domestic Abuse Hub, support and advocacy for survivors of DA: **0208 5476046** (Mon – Fri 9.30 – 5pm)

Concerned about a child, call the SPA: **0208 547 5008** (Mon – Fri 8am-5pm)



Intimate care guidance

The EYFS only says that you need to have “suitable hygienic changing facilities”. It isn’t very prescriptive. Some settings do not have suitable facilities and we ask you to make sure that you are considering the dignity of the children in your care. Consider a screen if you do not have separate space for nappy changing.

AfC’s EY team advises:

- The key person should change the child’s nappy
- Has to be DBS checked
- Have a place available that is hygienic, clean and suitable
- Ensure that you maintain the child’s dignity
- You should be sensitive to the child’s needs and preferences
- Encourage the child to care for themselves as much as they can
- Promote good hygiene with hand washing
- Clean the mat before and after nappy changing
- Use a fresh pair of disposable gloves and a disposable apron for each nappy change

Date for your diary: Safeguarding forum.

Summer Term 2023

Wednesday 28 June 7-9pm

It was so great to see over 80 practitioners at the Early Years forum on 15 March, where we learnt from the LADO about the referral process and we heard from Early Help about the **resilience network meetings** for practitioners to present emerging concerns to a panel of multi agency workers in the borough to seek support.

Safeguarding forums should be booked using [AfC Learning Portal](#)



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Early Help Resilience Network meetings are for you to seek advice and support before a concern reaches threshold for a referral. The meetings are informal and monthly. You can book on a resilience network meeting [here](#). Choose the 0-5 age group and the borough you work in.

local poverty support

The cost of living is affecting all of us. Please let all your families know that support is available.



[Citizens Advice Richmond](#)

[Citizens Advice Kingston](#)

[BBC Children In Need Emergency Essentials Programme](#)

[Connected Kingston](#) website

Richmond council Cost of living [Support Hub](#)

Kingston Council Cost of Living [Support Hub](#)

[Richmond Winter Warmth Home Service](#)

what to do if a child leaves your setting when you raise concerns

If a family removes a child from your setting due to your concerns, please alert the SPA so the child can be "seen" by professionals while not attending an Early Years setting. Attending nursery is not statutory so we must be vigilant in these cases. Responding to safeguarding concerns can be really challenging, especially if you are dealing with professional parents, who are resistant to accepting help or deny issues exist. Persisting with your concerns might lead to parents becoming defensive and even threatening legal action. It can be really challenging for practitioners. Do seek advice from the SPA and don't be afraid to refer cases back to SPA if you are not satisfied with the outcome. THANK YOU. The SPA number is 0208 547 5008

Do you have Young Carers in your setting?

If you know a child is in a caring role, refer them to the local Young Carers groups for Kingston and Richmond. Caring responsibilities have a huge impact on young people and these groups can offer valuable support.

020 3031 2754 Kingston Young Carers Project

020 8867 2383 Richmond Young Carers Project



Cruse Richmond Bereavement Support Service



Cruse has a strong, experienced group of volunteers, all having moved across to providing telephone and Zoom support, to new and existing clients. They can offer regular support to people within weeks of having registered with Cruse Richmond and are able to support families and children through bereavement. All volunteers undergo an extensive training programme and are experienced in providing emotional support to the bereaved - whenever and however that bereavement occurred. Leave a voicemail on **07495 777401** or email referrals@cruserichmonduponthames.org.uk. They will respond within 24 hours (not including weekends) to offer initial support and explain how to get regular telephone or Zoom support sessions with one of their volunteers.

Kingston Bereavement Service

Please contact us on 020 8547 1552 or email

info@kingstonbereavementservice.org.uk

For immediate help, you can call the CRUSE National Helpline on 0808 808 1677

Mental Health support

Charlie Waller organisation has lots of free guides and resources for professionals working with young people. Have a look [here](#)

Are you recognising racism in your setting? Call it out, stamp it out

Racism requires a "safeguarding first" approach. It needs to be responded to in the same way you would respond to other safeguarding concerns. Are you really recognising what racism looks like for your children, as part of their daily lived experience in your setting? We need to recognise it and respond to it, in order to stamp it out as part of an actively anti racist movement.

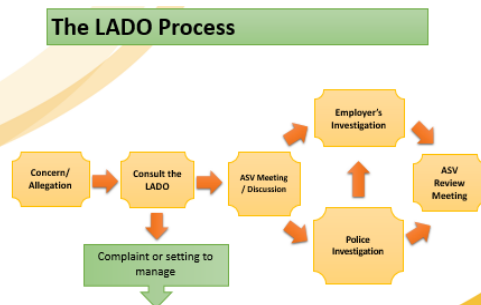


LADO Service

If you have any concerns about an adult working with children you can contact the LADO service on 020 8891 7370 or 07774 332 675 or email: LADO@achievingforchildren.org.uk

The LADO referral form is now online and can be accessed via our website [here](#).

When making a LADO referral remember that if there is a safeguarding concern for a child you will also need to make a SPA referral for the child.



SPA News

The Single Point of Access for Kingston and Richmond has produced this webcast and leaflet to explain more about their service and what they do. Please watch and read.

Watch [this](#) webcast about the SPA

Leaflet to accompany the SPA webcast is [here](#)

Challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in the Early Years



Gender stereotypes can limit aspirations for boys and girls and the Early Years is a vital time for challenging stereotypes and assumptions. The charity Lifting Limits are Early Years and Primary experts working to support early years settings in challenging gender stereotyping at the earliest stages of education. Their whole-setting approach supports real change and is evidence-based and externally evaluated. Kirsty, the Head of Education for the charity currently teaches part-time in a Reception classroom and is a former Local Authority Advisor working with settings, childminders, children's centres and families. Lifting Limits provide resources, training and curriculum support for practitioners to ensure that gender equality is seen in and through education. For more information on what can offer your setting, please visit www.liftinglimits.org.uk or e-mail info@liftinglimits.org.uk