

What Does Safeguarding Mean to Children and Young People?

It is important for safeguarding practice to be child centred. Capturing the voice of the child ensures their opinions are valued and the work of the professional takes into account the balance that is required, between the wishes of the child or young person and the need to keep them safe.

Do you talk to the children and young people you work with about staying safe?

Why not use Safeguarding Month as the perfect opportunity to start a conversation about what children want in order to keep safe? You can use topics or themes to introduce questions which encourage discussions. These could include:

- Online
- People
- Places

Questions to promote discussion, need to be age appropriate and not leading. Sufficient time needs to be given to allow children to process new information, discuss with friends and ask questions.

Workers need to be aware that when discussions around staying safe are introduced, disclosures from children or young people in the group are a possibility and it is important to ensure the worker is aware of this and has the safeguarding knowledge to be able to deal with a situation accordingly should it arise.

Click [here](#) to print off the "What Safeguarding Means to Me" speech bubble that children can use to promote discussion.

If you receive a disclosure from a child or young person you should:

- Keep calm and reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling you
- Clarify information but do not ask leading questions
- Record your conversations promptly and accurately
- Discuss with your organisation's designated safeguarding lead
- If you have a safeguarding concern, contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Click [here](#) for more information.