Non Mobile Baby Safeguarding Policy

This policy sets out clear principles and guidelines on safeguarding with specific reference to Non Mobile Babies. If should be considered in line with our whole Safeguarding Policy.

In response to a Serious Case Review which noted that 'Accidental bruising on non-independently mobile infants is rare and should therefore always warrant further investigation', many Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs are asking settings to develop their own "Non Mobile Baby Safeguarding Policy". This policy is in response to that advice.
The aim of the policy is to safeguard non-moving babies (and older children who are unable to move because they are disabled) by putting a procedure into place to protect them if they are observed to have unexplained bruising or other injuries such as fractures, burns or head injuries which might suggest they have been subjected to abuse. Experts recognise that innocent bruising and other injuries might occur, especially in mobile babies. However, evidence states that it is highly unlikely that innocent bruising or other injuries will be observed in non-mobile babies.

Policy

Hopscotch Preschool is required to keep babies and children safe from harm.
We recognise that non mobile babies (and older children who are disabled) are at risk of physical abuse. Evidence states that the younger the child the higher the risk that bruising on a baby in non-accidental. It is a requirement of our MASH that we refer all cases of bruising in non-mobile babies and older children to MASH for investigation.

Procedure

If a non mobile baby or older non-mobile disabled child arrives at Hopscotch Preschool with a bruise or other mark which could suggest the mark will be recorded on a 'record of injury' form.
If a reason has been given for the mark or injury by parents this will also be recorded. Parents will be asked to sign the form.
If a non-mobile baby or older disabled child has an accident whilst in our care that causes a mark or other injury, details will be recorded on our accident forms. Parents will be asked to sign the forms. Hopscotch Preschool staff are not qualified to investigate the cause of bruises or other indications of abuse in babies and children and all Adults, including the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including MASH, Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, or the Police, for further assessment and investigation of potential child abuse without delay.
It is essential that all bruises are noted in the child's records.

This policy was adopted by	Hopscotch Pre-school
On	29/12/2018
Date to be reviewed	29/12/2019
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Lorraine Clark
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or	Director