

06 – Safeguarding Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults Procedures

06.7 – Death of a Child On-Site

This is an extremely rare and tragic situation.

However, it is important that we have a clear procedure to protect everyone involved.

If a Child Is Suspected to Have Died at the Setting

1. A qualified First Aider will immediately begin emergency resuscitation (CPR).
2. They will continue until the ambulance arrives.
3. Only a medical professional (such as a doctor or paramedic) can confirm a child has died.

Who We Contact Immediately

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) makes sure that:

 1. Emergency services are called

- Ambulance
- Police

 2. Parents/carers are contacted right away

Parents are informed that:

- There has been a serious incident involving their child.
- An ambulance has been called.
- They must come to the setting or hospital immediately (they will be told which).

 3. The Manager is informed

The DSL also begins completing the official Confidential Safeguarding Incident Report (06.1c).

 4. Other parents are called to collect their children

- A staff member phones all parents to collect their children.
- Everyone is given the same, agreed information.
- The reason given is decided by the DSL to protect the privacy and dignity of the child and family.

🚫 5. The setting will close

- Police advise how long the setting must remain closed.

🏢 6. Required authorities are notified

The nominated person will:

- Inform Ofsted.
- Submit a RIDDOR report (required for serious incidents).

🗉 7. Staff are instructed not to discuss anything with the press

Only the authorities can provide information.

💙 Responding After the Incident

The manager will:

🔍 1. Decide how the internal investigation will happen

This is done only after advice from the police and other agencies.

👉 2. Arrange emotional support

Support will be available for:

- Staff
 - Children
 - Any families affected
- This may include counselling or specialist mental health support.

📖 Further Guidance Used by the Setting

- *Supporting Children's Experiences of Loss and Separation* (Early Years Alliance)