

## I am a Parent/Carer, where can I find further information on Children First?

Tusla's [Children First eLearning Programme](#) is aimed at supporting people of all backgrounds and experience to recognise and report concerns. This programme can be accessed at:

Early Years Services are Providers of Relevant Services under the Children First Act 2015 and as such are legally required to have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place. The Child Safeguarding Statement must be displayed in a prominent place in the service and must be made available to parents where requested.

For more information on Child Safeguarding Statements can be found on the [Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit](#) website.

Name of Early Years Service:

Address:

Name of Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Contact no.:

Name of Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL):

Contact no.:

If parents have a child safeguarding concern, they should follow this service's Reporting Procedure by contacting the DLP.

If for any reason it is not possible to contact the DLP in this service, parents should contact their local Tusla Duty Social Workers through their local [Dedicated Contact Point](#).

For Further Information:

[National Child Safeguarding Programme](#)

[Tusla Children First](#)

[Tusla Early Years Inspectorate](#)

## Safeguarding Children in Early Years Services

### Information for Parents

**NATIONAL CHILD  
SAFEGUARDING  
PROGRAMME**  
for Early Learning &  
Childcare Services





## The Children First Act, 2015

The Children First Act 2015 places specific obligations on organisations which provide services to children, including the requirement to:

- Keep children **safe from harm** while they are using the service
- Carry out a **risk assessment** to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while availing of the service
- Develop a **Child Safeguarding Statement** that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified
- Appoint a **relevant person** to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement

## Mandated Persons

The Children First Act 2015 places a legal obligation on certain people, many of whom are professionals, to report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to Tusla. Childcare workers in early years services and persons carrying on an early years service are mandated persons. Mandated persons must also assist Tusla, on request, in its assessment of child protection concerns about children who have been the subject of a mandated report.

## The Children First National Guidance

The Children First National Guidance outlines a number of key principles in safeguarding, including:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility
- The best interests of the child should be paramount
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm

## What safeguarding measures should parents/carers expect from an Early Years Service?

At a minimum, early years services must:

- Be registered with Tusla
- Have a **Child Safeguarding Statement** that is clearly visible to all who enter the service, and which is shared appropriately
- Have **Child Safeguarding Procedures** that outline the obligations, roles and responsibilities of workers in relation to child safeguarding
- Consult with parents on matters affecting their children in an open and supportive way
- Share to all of the **Early Years Services' Policies and Procedures**, including those relevant to Child Safeguarding

## Reporting Child Protection Concerns

**'The safety and welfare of children is everybody's responsibility,' Children First National Guidance'**

Child protection and welfare concerns must be reported to Tusla without delay. This service's Child Safeguarding Reporting Procedure outlines how this can be done, alongside the DLP

## The National Child Safeguarding Programme

The National Child Safeguarding Programme is funded by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and works in conjunction with Childcare Committees Ireland (CCI), Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta (CNNG) and Tusla's Children First Information and Advice Service (CFIAS) to tailor and develop Children First Training, resources and information to support child centred practice, that keeps children safe from harm while attending Early Years Services in Ireland.

[www.childsafeguardingelc.ie](http://www.childsafeguardingelc.ie)

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