

## Information for parents placing their children in registered childcare provision in West Sussex

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may know the valuable services offered by providers of registered childcare for children under the age of eight years are subject to regulation by Ofsted.

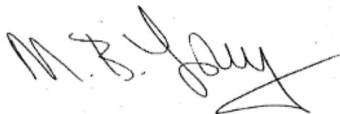
The purpose of regulation is to protect children, to provide reassurance to those who are arranging for their children to be looked after and to ensure that services meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted's Childcare Inspectors carry out regular inspections to ensure the setting continues to meet these requirements and that the children are well looked after.

There is a specific legal requirement that all providers safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in their care. This means that they have a responsibility to report any concerns regarding a child in their care. Steps taken must be in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures. This ensures, where necessary, action is taken to protect children from harm.

It is important to remember that the guiding principles of the procedures and the supporting legal framework are that the needs of the child are paramount and that children have the right to be safeguarded from harm. However we do recognise that this process can be very distressing for parents.

We have asked your childcare provider to bring this matter to the notice of all parents so that you are fully aware of the procedure they have to follow in these circumstances.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Foley  
Area Service Manager

September 11