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AI Statement

I have not used AI in any way for this assignment.

My Reflection on child protection

My knowledge and understanding of safeguarding before I started this assignment, is understanding how many types of abuse there is and learning how to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse. Being on a safeguarding training I am aware as a practitioner, I know that I have the responsibility to be aware of any signs, and if situations may occur, know how to respond to situations, how to observe, record and who to report it to the right persons. Research has shown me how many children have suffered in some sort of abuse, by parents, families and even friends. Young children suffer from other types of abuse such as, anxiety, depression, self-harm, these are due to unhappy home where the parent could be the victim of abuse, experiencing financial hardship, being bullied because of their identity or even accepting their identity. Being bullied at school or in today society online bullying. Many older children have access to the internet playing games or other social media accounts, this is quite frightening to learn how children are being groomed through this, whilst playing a game thinking the other person is a friend and the child starts to trust this person not knowing it is an adult. Reading about children who have been known to social services, and under their care and still was not being protected enough to save them. Even today there are still cases going on and the system is still letting these children down. This is due to the way parents or the abusers manipulate the police and social services. So many opportunities to save these innocent children who have their lives taken away from them. Many people feel they don't want to get involved, they feel it is not their place or maybe frightened of what other members of the family could do to them. We should not be made to feel like that we should be able to save and protect children. So sad and heartbreaking to hear these stories that everyday a child is being abused in so many ways, and I feel it is getting worse because of the society we live in. During this assignment as my role of a health visitor, researching this role has made me understand how important of a role and responsibility they have. Not only they are there to give children the best start of life, to make sure they are developing their holistic development, they are also there to protect children and to support their families. In safeguarding children, if they need any help and to refer them to the right persons. How they have the responsibility to get other multiagency involved and work with them to safeguard children and parents if there are signs of abuse at home. To help new mothers and offer advice if they are suffering from post-natal or mental health issues. Monitor situations and to identify children how are at risk, and to support children and to listen to them as they too have a voice. As a practitioner, working with children my aim is to protect and listen to them. After learning and researching child abuse, I am now more aware of the signs and symptoms to look out for. I would listen to a child if they wanted to talk about any worries or if they seem distressed, knowing how to store information and who to report it too. I would rather be wrong than not trust my instinct when it comes to safeguarding children in my care.

The five R's recognising, recording, reporting, referring and responsibilities are the important procedures in safeguarding. Recognising the first signs and symptoms of abuse, is to protect children in the early stages. The signs of a child who is being abused, would display aggressive behaviour and have an impact on their social development, can show more to be withdrawn, less competent with their peers and problems with daily living skills (Ward and Davies, 2012, p.31).

Recording the situation where practitioners need to observe and record what the child is saying. In the setting, there should be a record of any doubts or concerns about a child, should be noted in an incident/concern book. All information should be kept confidential and kept in a safe place and only be read by named staff (Powell and Uppal, 2012, p.68).

Reporting after the observation and recording the information, confide with other practitioners about these concerns and then speak to the child protection officer who will then take this further (Lindon, 2012, p.58).

According to the NSPCC (2023), a referral would be made by the designated safeguarding in the setting alongside the works policy.

Responsibilities are of the multiagency working together, in safeguarding children and young people. According to Safeguarding Wales (2025) each agency or individual professional to contribute all relevant information which these indicate concerns for the child. We all have a responsibility to protect children.

REFERENCE LIST

Lindon, J. (2012) *Safeguarding and child protection 0-8 years*. Lindon, J. 4TH edn London. Hodder Education.

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