

Reflection

Through working in the early years, I have learnt so much regarding safeguarding. In my current role I have attended numerous safeguarding courses, but I feel like they are all the same and although they are beneficial and do give a lot of information and do touch on the process of safeguarding, they do not actually teach or prepare you for an initial child protection conference. I have not attended a conference, but I have given and passed on information to my safeguarding lead. Although I find this aspect of the job the most difficult as when a situation arises and things must be taken further it is us as staff that the parents take their anger out on. More recently there was an incident with a little boy who had a bruise on his ear and the dad did not mention this to staff know on drop off and when discovered it was passed onto the safeguarding lead, who had spoken to the parents and IAA and there was not a valid reason for this, so it had escalated further into an initial child protection conference where the dad was not invited to attend but he was in the setting with myself, another member of staff and the little boy as at that time he was not to be left on his own with the child. During the whole process I tried to keep him calm and reassured however, as I did not know what goes on in the conference, I felt a bit unprepared and did not want to say the wrong thing and pass on the wrong information. The outcome turned out okay and the boy was able to go home with dad. I feel that this module has helped me gained me a lot more knowledge and understanding of what happens during an initial child protection conference.

It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard children. According to Prospero Learning safeguarding is a crucial responsibility for anyone working with children. If practitioners are aware and mindful of the 5r's as they provide a clear framework for responding to safeguarding concerns. The 5r's are important in following procedures recognise and identifying potential signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Practitioners need to be aware of the different types of harm. Responding appropriately and seeking advice from a supervisor, in the setting when an incident had occurred a practitioner had asked the child too many questions which was seen as leading the child. Report if there are any concerns to the designated safeguarding officer/lead, and if necessary, they will then report to the appropriate authorities. Practitioners need to keep accurate and detailed records of the situation.

I have previously had to write a detailed account of a situation, and I had to ensure that I had signed and dated it using pen. I have also offered parents to seek support with outside agencies when they have told me if they are having current struggles and I have also sought out agencies when I have needed support with my own child when he has been having outbursts due to his needs.

Reference

- Prospero Learning, (ND). *What are the 5 R's of Safeguarding?*. Available at: <https://www.prospero-learning.com/safeguardingthe-5rs> (Accessed: 6th July 2025).