

Hello, my name is Lucie, and I am the Nursery Manager and designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). As a nursery manager my role is to make sure that children are coming into the setting, where they feel safe and, in an environment, where they are being stimulated and challenged, while also making sure that the children's safety and wellbeing are being monitored for their protection (National Careers Service, no date). My role as DSL is to make sure there are measures in place to protect children such as making sure all staff are DBS checked but also to work with local authorities to keep informed and liaise sensitive information about vulnerable children and families (NSPCC, 2019). To protect those involved I will use a first-name basis to follow GDPR regulations as we are all responsible for keeping personal data protected (UK Government, No date).

It was brought to my attention that on a drop off that Leo had been handed over to staff by an unknown male who had a strong smell of alcohol coming from him. It was also reported to me that Leo over the last few weeks has been observed as being dirty with unwashed clothing and clothing worn repeatedly throughout the week without being cleaned, Leo has been attending nursery hungry and is showing signs of frustration and stress. What has been witnessed by staff is out of character for Leo as he usually presents as a happy, caring and relaxed child. From what has been witnessed by staff, and I is that Leo is being neglected. It was clear that Leo had not been bathed as he had dirt marks across the visible areas of his body and an odour of urine coming from himself and the clothes he had repeatedly worn. This to us at the nursery showed signs that Leo is being neglected of his basic needs, NSPCC (2025) states that there are 4 types of neglect, there is physical neglect, educational neglect, emotional neglect and medical neglect.

SCIE (date) stated that signs of neglect are when a child may present with excessive hunger or failure to provide adequate shelter, clothing or food. Another sign of neglect that staff and I witnessed was that Leo had also been attending nursery where he would make staff aware that he had not been having breakfast in the morning, as his mum was still asleep when he was up in the mornings and unable to bring him because she was tired. Leo would become very upset and distressed when discussing mummy and the unknown male and how they would forget to make him breakfast and leave his sister crying alone upstairs.

Following the Working together to safeguard children guidance the Department for Education (2025) states that the best way to safeguard and maintain the wellbeing of a child is to have strong relationships with families in the best interest of the child but also as a whole family. Due to the changes in his behaviour and discussions had with Leo, I felt it best to check on Mum and see if we could understand the change in him for there may have been changes in family circumstances. When discussing Leo's hunger Mum stated that she was in too much of a rush to sort breakfast for Leo and he would have to wait until lunch at the nursery. Mum also stated that there hadn't been any change to Leo's life that she could think of and left the conversation short.

From this disclosure from Leo, this was instantly reported under the 5 R's. Online DBS (2022) states the first of the 5 R's is to recognise the behaviour, Leo showed signs of lack of cleanliness, hunger and emotional distress, Next is that we responded to Leo's disclosures where we remained calm and listened to him. Staff reported their concerns to me as the designated safeguarding lead, and staff had documented what Leo had said and described exactly what they saw about his unkempt appearance and his disclosures of mealtimes. From all of this, I have made the referral to the Children's Social Care where local authorities may be needed such as an early help hub to help support the family currently to speak for Leo but also be a support system for the family to build off the situation at hand (Mind, 2023).

To end this report, we as a nursery will be making sure that Leo is attending sessions with staff who are trained in emotional coaching to improve his social and emotional development but also support his comfort and to encourage his social development with his peers (Rainbows Nursery, 2024) also to support him in regulating his emotions as these skills states by Mentally Healthy Schools (no date) states that having positive social and emotional skills build resilience, working on feelings and positive behaviour.

References for script

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