

Presentation Script

- Thank you. Good evening, my name is Kelly Watkinson, and I am the childcare practitioner within the Nursery/Preschool setting that Ben attends. My job role described by Skills for Schools (No Date) is to care for the children within the early year's settings, to aid and monitor the development and progress of the children within the setting and share appropriately with parents and families of the children and other multi agency workers when necessary. My job role also includes ensuring the children's safety is paramount and to report any concerns I have to the appropriate agencies in accordance with the policies and procedures of my setting and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and in compliance with the Children's Act 2004 section 11.
- When Ben started attending our setting in September 2023, he was a confident and outgoing child who was always eager to participate in activities and try new activities in a safe and controlled environment. Ben was developing well, and his attendance was always exemplary; Ben was always in age and weather appropriate clothing and seemingly well fed, which is his right stated by Article 27 of the UNCRC. Ben always came into the setting seemingly well rested in accordance with his right to rest as stated in Article 31 of the UNCRC. My other colleagues and I felt we had no issues or concerns regarding Ben at that time.
- Polly, Ben's mother, seemed happy and well at the drop-offs to the setting. Polly was always talkative and friendly towards staff and gave a detailed handover to the staff regarding Ben and how he had been with her beforehand. Polly was always more than cooperative when asked to provide extra items for Ben such as Sun cream.

- In the more recent weeks, my colleagues and I have noticed a significant change in Ben. Ben is a quiet boy who seems to be tired and has recently started having emotional outbursts whilst in the setting with no noticeable cause. Ben no longer wants to be involved in activities and instead chooses to exercise his right to rest as previously stated in Article 31 of the UNCRC by sitting in our cozy corner for the entirety of his sessions with us.
- Another change that has been noticed in Ben is during snack times he seems to be worried and very hungry, always ensuring that he eats his snack very quickly and becoming upset if another child comes too close to him during his meal. Ben's appearance and clothing have also been a noticeable change. Ben appears to be in ripped, dirty clothing and is regularly attending the setting in unsuitable clothing for the weather. An example of this was, during a rainy spell, Ben was brought to the setting consistently without a coat until one was provided by the setting.
- Polly's behaviour has also changed within recent weeks. Polly is no longer talkative with the staff. Polly appears to be anxious in herself and distant from Ben, not wanting to say goodbye to him when he is dropped off at the setting. When staff checked in with Polly to see if she was okay and to explain there had been a change in Ben's behaviour recently. Polly had no explanation for this and assured us everything was fine outside of the setting, but Polly seemed defensive and panicked during this conversation. There has also been a number of uninformed absences in Ben's attendance and when i gave Polly check-in calls due to this, Polly did not answer.
- On one occasion a man who staff didn't recognise as a family member or close family friend dropped Ben off at the setting. The man had a strong smell of alcohol on him and on this morning, Ben entered the setting very distraught and unsettled. Upon pick up time i explained to Polly that Ben was quite upset this morning after being dropped off at the setting by the man. Polly explained that the man was her new partner and that his name was Jeffery. Polly also asked to

change the registration forms within our setting to allow Jeffery to be able to pick Ben up. Once again, whilst Polly was speaking to myself, she seemed very anxious and on edge.

- As stated by the NSPCC (No Date) the changes mentioned previously in Ben are common signs of abuse, specifically Neglect, which is an increasing cause for concern for us the longer it progresses.
- As a result of this, in line with the Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 and with the settings policies and procedures of Reporting abuse, we as a setting reported our concerns to the manager who passed on our concerns to the health visitor and the social services. This concludes my report.

Self reflection

Before this module I had a moderate understanding and knowledge of safeguarding due to my experience working in a nursery/preschool setting and attending safeguarding courses every 3 years as the setting and standards require. Despite this previous training In safeguarding, I have developed my knowledge to a much more advanced level. I was previously unaware of how many different acts and legislations there are in place to help protect and safeguard children and vulnerable people. This module has expanded my knowledge of these dramatically and I was surprised to learn that ACTs are made and put in place as a result of a past event in which the government recognised more precautions needed to be in place and acted upon this. I feel this module has made me more aware of the different aspects of safeguarding and has given me a deeper knowledge of this. It has also given me a developed sense of responsibility to educate myself on these acts and legislations and continue to work in accordance with them to continue being successful within my job role and future job roles. Thank you.

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