

Personal Script and reflection

When following safeguarding guidance, and creating a thorough safeguarding report it is important to keep in mind the 5 R's (Hoare, A., 2022). These include recognise, respond, report, record and refer. To recognise any signs of abuse, neglect or harm. This also includes physical, emotional, behavioural and environmental indicators that may be impacting the child. When recognising these indicators, responding to the situation must be immediate according to Wales Safeguarding Procedures (No date), as this ensures the safety of the child is prioritised (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, No date). Informing the appropriate safeguarding lead or agency as soon as possible is the next R, and this makes other professionals aware that there is an issue with the child that needs to be handled immediately. Recording exactly what happened and what was seen, heard or were told will help bring credibility to the report (Colbourn, R., 2025). Gov Uk (2017) then highlights the importance of passing the concern to the correct agency, as this provides protection and awareness of the report (Gov Uk, 2017).

Implementing these into a safeguarding report can help it become more clear and consistent, as everything is kept organised and safe with the child in mind (Twigg, E., 2018). The 5 R's provide constant consistency, which reduces mistakes or delays which sometimes can lead to children falling through the cracks or not being helped to the highest standard (Dfe, 2025). Department for Education (2025) also states that following these provides protection to not only the child but also the professional, with accurate recording and reporting of incidents (Dfe, 2025). The NSPCC (No date) mentions that following these will support accountability and promote early intervention, to ensure the safeguarding case is dealt with adequately and ensuring no risk or harm has escalated (NSPCC, No date). Being truthful, thorough and consistent help the child, the professional and the multi-agencies to deal with the case correctly and spread awareness of the importance of the 5 R's in safeguarding (Hughes and Owen, 2009).

Safeguarding is about protecting children and keeping them safe from any harm they might experience. Throughout my research, I came across many difficult cases that really opened my eyes to different types of neglect and abuse children experience. As someone who has seen firsthand the effects of child neglect in a family dynamic, it still shocks me learning about new cases and I found myself quite emotional at times during my research.

I have learnt that neglect comes under an umbrella, and can usually go unnoticed. It has definitely given me more information to use while in practice, to understand and identify the early signs of harm and to intercept when possible. I have learnt more about legislations and laws that have been created in order to help children in these situations, such as Operation Encompass.

As I prepare to become the practitioner I want to be, safeguarding was such an important topic I wanted to know everything about. I want my space to reflect these laws that have been designed to protect our children, and ensure that it is a safe space where children are appreciated and cared for.

Knowing a child could be going home to an unsafe and dangerous environment is really upsetting, but taking time to learn and research ways to help them can make a great impact.

I now feel more confident about reporting anything worrying I see, and knowing where I can report it.

Informing myself on how important multi-agencies are, and that when they work together they all play such key roles. By taking the part of a police officer in today's presentation, I had the opportunity to learn new laws, such as the domestic abuse act 2021, and how impactful officers can be in safeguarding situations. It definitely provides me with more career options, and new paths I never thought I'd be interested in.

Working together to create today's presentation was also informational, as I learnt new things through them by just listening. It was quite difficult to complete group work, as all of us have commitments. But being able to help each other was extremely helpful, and I felt supported and uplifted by my group.

Overall, I enjoyed this module and gaining new information and knowledge.

Thank you for your time, and thank you to my peers for the support during this assignment.

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