

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and while working on this assignment.
I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have
copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide if needed.

The safeguarding module is important for any professional or individual working with children who might be vulnerable to harm. Safeguarding procedures in the context of the UK and in Wales specifically involve recognizing signs that a child may be at risk of abuse and how to report it. Signs of abuse might include injuries in unusual places on the body, a sudden change in their behavior, becoming withdrawn or anxious, or changes in the way a child interacts with peers or family members (NSPCC, 2025 and SCIE, 2023). When a practitioner or teacher is recording signs they might have noticed to add to their report, they should only record what was seen or heard and not modify it in any way, the information should be factual, they should add any witnesses if present, and ensure that they go to the appropriate person with this information, with the child's privacy in mind. If there is immediate concern, the police should be contacted, and if there are concerns but the child is not in immediate danger, they should report the concern to the appropriate authorities (Welsh Government, n.d.). Depending on the situation, different organizations and settings have their own safeguarding policies that must be followed. There is also an NSPCC Helpline where concerns can be made through phone or email, where a child protection specialist will provide guidance (NSPCC, 2024b). Another option is to contact the local child protection service. It is important to note that in Wales, those working for the local authority have a duty to report, which requires them to report any suspicions of abuse or if they feel that a child might be at risk of harm (Social Care Wales, 2025). All practitioners or professionals involved in a case should work cooperatively and ensure the well-being of the child is prioritized (Chambers, Cantrell, and Booth, 2021).

Coming in as an international student from the States, I was not aware of what safeguarding was, and it was a term unfamiliar to me at the start of the semester. I am grateful to have taken this module and learn about the safeguarding policies and procedures not only in the UK but in Wales and Swansea specifically. My classmates also shared their experiences and safeguarding policies at their settings. In the states, before I started working at a child care center or volunteering in a classroom, I had to get a background check and complete an online mandated reporter training before setting foot on the site. This certification is valid for 2 years, and then it has to be completed again for review. Something that I think the center, and I would argue many other settings, need to work on is continuing to talk about child protection and promoting the well-being of the child. In my experience, this topic was not talked about enough in my workplace, and during training, it is discussed in very small detail. Throughout the

module, I have reflected on past work experiences and how this is something I would take into consideration in my future jobs and career. While it is important for staff to be trained in protecting the children, I believe it is just as important that there are strong relationships between the staff and the management team. Something discussed in one of the lectures was some of the barriers to responding to a safeguarding concern. Working in an environment where the teachers and staff don't feel confident or comfortable enough to speak up and go to their leaders for help is a barrier and can put everyone in the setting at risk of more harm (NSPCC, 2024a). When I get back to the States, I hope to take what I have learned and bring more awareness to child protection and welfare. When applying for other jobs, I will ask about child protection policies, figure out who the person in charge of these policies is in case I need to go to them for guidance, and educate myself further on the laws regarding mandated reporters and child protection in California.

Reference list

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NSPCC (2024b) *Child protection system for Wales*. Available at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/wales#article-top> (Accessed: 9 November 2025).

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