

Personal reflective script and references

The principles of recognising, recording, reporting, referring, and responsibilities are important for effective safeguarding because they ensure concerns about a child are identified early and acted on appropriately. Staff must first recognise possible signs of harm, whether physical, emotional, or behavioural, so that risks are not overlooked, a necessity strongly emphasised in guidance for all professionals working with children (NSPCC, 2024; Department for Education, 2024a). Clear and factual recording is essential because accurate notes support assessments and ensure information is not lost or misinterpreted (HM Government, 2023). Concerns then need to be reported swiftly to the designated safeguarding lead so that action can be taken without delay, a principle of fast escalation reiterated in both school-specific and international safeguarding policy (Department for Education, 2024a; UNICEF, 2025). When the risk is significant, referring concerns to external agencies such as children's social care ensures the child receives appropriate protection and support, as mandated by the statutory multi-agency framework (HM Government, 2023). Every professional has a duty to safeguard children and to understand their role within wider multi-agency systems (Children Act, 2004; Department for Education, 2024b). The effectiveness of this multi-agency response is constructed by specific legislation requiring agencies to cooperate (Children Act, 2004, s.10) and to share information when necessary to prevent harm (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998). Together, these principles create a coordinated and accountable process that helps prevent harm, supports early intervention, and promotes children's safety and wellbeing.

I have learnt a great amount throughout this module. Previously, I completed a safeguarding course while training to become a swim teacher for young children. That course taught me a lot, but I now realise there were important details I did not know at the time. I was unaware that the Children Act 2004 was influenced by the case of Victoria Climbié, and I had not known about her case at all. Learning about Victoria Climbié and other similar cases has made me more aware of how many children have been failed by multiple authorities, which I find truly heartbreaking. Through this module, I have developed a strong understanding of the different types of abuse and the signs that may indicate a child is experiencing harm. I now feel more confident in my ability to recognise when a child might be at risk and to take appropriate action to support them. This is particularly important to me as I aspire to work in an early years setting, where safeguarding children is a fundamental responsibility. I also learned about the Safeguarding app, which I had not known about before. I have found it to be an extremely useful tool, with up-to-date information that helps me understand procedures and best practices in safeguarding. I have thoroughly enjoyed working in a group as I think it is a great opportunity to learn from each other and work together. Overall, I have completed this module feeling much more confident in my knowledge

and understanding of safeguarding for young children. I now fully appreciate its importance and the crucial role that early identification and intervention play in protecting vulnerable children.

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