



10 Tips to build a culture of safeguarding

1

Model safeguarding in everyday interactions

- Warm, respectful communication with children and families shows what 'safe' looks like.
- Use positive language, active listening and reassurance.
- Respond promptly and calmly to any worries raised

Children learn from the behaviour they see around them – calm, confident adults create a sense of security.

2

Make safeguarding visible and understood by all

- Ensure children are able to communicate their feelings to trusted adults in whatever way they can.
- Keep parent notices clear and accessible (e.g., DSL names and photos).
- Use simple language with children to help them understand personal boundaries and consent (e.g., "You can say no," "Your body belongs to you").

Transparency builds trust and normalises conversations about safety.

3

Prioritise strong partnerships with families

- Greet families personally at drop-off and pickup.
- Keep communication channels open through daily chats, newsletters or online systems.
- Share positive moments regularly – not just concerns.

When families feel respected and included, they are more likely to share important information early.



4

Regular, reflective staff discussions – not just training

Training is essential, but an authentic safeguarding culture comes from ongoing conversations:

- Hold short weekly 'safeguarding moments' in staff meetings.
- Include safeguarding in staff supervision sessions, to discuss any concerns and reflect on your setting's systems and practice.
- Use scenarios or recent anonymised examples to help understanding
- Encourage all staff to voice concerns, even if they think they are small.

5

Empower staff at every level

When staff discuss safeguarding routinely, it becomes part of the setting's culture.

- Make it clear that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – not just the DSL's.
- Support new or less confident staff through mentoring and supervision
- Ensure all staff know what to report, who to report to, and how to record concerns.

In a positive culture everyone knows their responsibilities and feels supported.

6

Establish a 'no blame' reporting culture

- Staff know that raising a concern is always the right thing to do.
- Thank staff for bringing things forward, even if the concern turns out to be minor.
- Avoid judgement or negativity when someone is unsure.

People will speak up more in environments where they know they will be heard and that they won't be criticised for trying to keep children safe.

7

Make the environment physically and emotionally safe

- Provide quiet areas for children who need space or calm.
- Ensure all spaces are supervised but not intrusive.
- Keep routines predictable and transitions smooth.

A well-organised environment reduces stress and helps children feel safe and secure.





8

Involve children in safeguarding in an age-appropriate way

- Encourage children to express their feelings through play, picture cards or stories.
- Teach vocabulary for emotions (“I feel sad/scared/confused”).
- Reinforce the idea of seeking help from trusted adults.

Children who are able to express themselves are likely to feel safer and make adults aware of any concerns.



9

Review policies in a practical, user-friendly way

- Translate policies into simple ‘what this looks like in practice’ guides. This could be for staff or parents.
- Keep procedures clear and concise.
- Update staff with short reminders after reviews so they know of any changes

Staff engage more with safeguarding when policies feel usable – not overwhelming.



10

Celebrate safeguarding successes

Small celebrations help embed the positive culture:

- Recognise staff who handled a difficult situation well.
- Share anonymised examples of good practice.
- Praise teamwork in keeping children safe.

Positivity encourages continuous motivation and buy-in.