



Safeguarding policy statement

September 2022, reviewed October 2023.

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Our Work

Make-Do Play provide weekly outdoor community play sessions where children can play freely outside and let their imaginations flow endlessly.

The sessions are child-led and informal, where children can play however they wish without adult interference and not segregated by age, a chance for children to enjoy some freedom again and for the grown ups to relax and chat together, after being isolated for so long. In the sessions we provide lots of junk, loose parts, arts and crafts, messy play, mud kitchens, gardening and tool work for children to explore in their own way. We run in all weather and encourage everyone to embrace the seasons.

Key aims and objectives

To provide quality free, inclusive and accessible play for all: We believe that every child has a right to play. We are wholeheartedly committed to always keeping our sessions free for families. From talking to other local parents and our own experiences as parents we understand how unaffordable and inaccessible a lot of children's activities can be, and how pandemic babies and children who have missed out on so much need quality relaxed child led play to support their social and emotional development. We believe the need for free community activities is only increasing with the recent increases in cost of living.

To create a strong community project, facilitating community cohesion and support:

Parenthood can be an isolating time, our sessions are open to all regardless of background or needs and free from judgement. We encourage families to become part of our Make Do Play family, taking ownership by telling us their needs and empowering children to make choices, take risks and try new things.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Make-Do Play's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Make-Do Play, including senior managers and committee members, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- photography and sharing images guidance
- health and safety policy and risk assessment

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
 - all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
 - some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

Find out more about on the NSPCC website:

- safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities
- safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people
- safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people
- safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We will seek to keep children safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people and a deputy.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
 - making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Our safeguarding procedures:

- A safeguarding tracking form will be created for any child where concerns are raised, detailing any observations or interactions.
- Any concerns will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- If it is felt that a child or family is vulnerable and may benefit from additional support then The Children's Services Contact Team for Islington will be contacted and with parental consent an Early Help Assessment may be requested.
- In the event of a disclosure by a child, staff will follow good practice by not asking leading questions and informing the child that they (the staff member) will need to pass the information on. A report will be written.
- All tracking forms and reports will be completed as soon as possible after the event, dated and signed. Staff should remain objective, detailing the child's own words and all the facts of the interaction or incident without adding speculation or opinion.
- All documents will be stored in a secure folder, accessible only to the company's directors.
- Information on safeguarding concerns will be kept confidential and only shared with other members of staff on a needs-to-know basis.
- The DSL and staff will use knowledge gained in safeguarding training to judge when a concern needs to be escalated. In this instance the DSL (or any member of staff if the DSL is unavailable) will contact Islington's Children's Social Care, which has an all hours number.
- If staff feel that a child is in immediate risk of harm or a serious crime has been alleged, then the police will also be called.
- In the event of an allegation regarding a member of staff, Islington's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted.
- In the event of an incident occurring on site, an incident form would be completed and shared with the parent/carer. If the incident is severe the local authority will be informed.

Contact details

Nominated child protection lead

Name: Dominique Wicks

Phone/email: 07730607586 makedoplaylondon@gmail.com

Deputy child protection lead(s)

Name(s): Kerri Burton

Phone/email: 07715819199 makedoplaylondon@gmail.com

Islington's LADO is Timur Djavit, Service Manager Children Protection. For advice and information about allegations against staff and volunteers please contact

LADO@islington.gov.uk , or call 020 7527 8102

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: September 2022, September 2023.

Signed:D.Wicks.....

Date:20/9/22...20/9/23.....

More ways to help you protect children

- Take our online course Child protection: an introduction nspcc.org.uk/cpintro
- Sign up to our weekly safeguarding current awareness newsletter nspcc.org.uk/caspar

- View more information and resources for voluntary and community organisations
nspcc.org.uk/vcs
- In partnership with and supported by: nspcc.org.uk/learning learning@nspcc.org.uk 0116
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