

Rainbow Pre-School & Extended Services



Rainbow Pre-School & Extended Services
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27th February 2017

Re: RELAY

Dear Parent/Carer

Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services has been given the opportunity to take part in an initiative that will run jointly between schools, educational settings, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Police called RELAY. As we are education providers who are responsible for the safety and welfare of the children attending Rainbow PS&ES, in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy and the Local Authorities recommendations, we have signed up to this protocol.

Relay focuses on early notification to educational settings of any reported domestic abuse incidents which occur outside of the pre-school and might have a significant impact on a child at Rainbow. Information regarding any such incidents will be passed onto our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Vickie Sharp, via a Crime Report which is submitted to the Relay team by Bedfordshire Police.

It is a very difficult time when families are experiencing domestic abuse which can impact not only on the parents but also the children. Relay shares information, confidentially, with the people responsible for safeguarding children so that support can be provided to children when they arrive the following morning or afternoon for their pre-school session. Support can be 'silent' by simply monitoring a child and considering their emotional needs during daily routines for example or more immediate intervention such as delivering an activity which may help them share their fears or worries. The work delivered will be dependent on each case, will follow the needs and wishes of the child and the parents/carers where possible. Being part of this scheme will enable Rainbow to be aware of these situations and for anyone affected to avoid unnecessary stress by having to repeat the story several times.

Rainbow PS& ES operates an open door policy, we are always approachable should any parent or carer be concerned.

A designated Relay Support Officer will be available to us and you as parents/carers to build a relationship and offer support and advice to those who feel they would benefit from information around domestic abuse.

We are keen to continue our commitment to offer the best support to all the children attending Rainbow, we believe this initiative will be beneficial for all involved.

If you have any further questions regarding this scheme please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

Vickie Sharp
Head of Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services

