



Safeguarding Update:

Bruising in non-mobile babies and children

Our **Safeguarding Policy and Procedures** provide detailed guidelines on what to do when you have a concern about a child; contact the **Clinical Director** or one of the **Committee Members**, or phone **Children's Services** and make a direct referral.

The phone numbers are on the **Emergency Contact card** provided. If you have mislaid your card, or it is out of date please collect a new one from the office.

In addition to the information you already have, there are new guidelines on how to deal with bruising, issued by the **Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board**.

Please read these notes and ensure you follow them if you notice bruising during a family visit.

Bruising which suggests the possibility of non-accidental injury include:

- Bruising on a small baby
- Bruising on children not independently mobile (e.g. disabled)
- Bruising away from obvious bony prominences (e.g. knees)
- Bruising around mouth, cheeks, ears, back, abdomen, upper arms, buttocks
- Multiple bruises in clusters
- Bruises in a uniform shape
- Bruising with an obvious imprint (e.g. hand, stick)
- Bruising with petechiae around them (dots of blood under the skin)

A bruise should be assessed in the context of the child's medical and social history, developmental stage and explanation given. **Any bruising on a non-mobile baby, especially to the face, should ALWAYS be reported.**

*Working with children,
adolescents, adults and families.*

The Open Toy Box
...making a difference!

Where there is cause for concern about a bruise:

DO NOT MAKE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT

CONTACT THE OPEN TOY BOX OFFICE AND/OR CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

1. Talk to the parent/carer about the bruising
2. Tell them that the baby/child should be seen by Children's Services
3. Remind them that you have to inform the Clinical Director at The Open Toy Box of any concerns
4. Contact the Clinical Director or Committee Member at The Open Toy Box by calling a number on your contact card
5. If you cannot reach The Open Toy Box Clinical Director or Committee Member immediately:

CALL CHILDRENS SERVICES ON: 0300 123 4043

1. Say that you want to report a concern with reference to bruising on a baby or child
2. Check that immediate action is taken
3. Advise The Open Toy Box office of your action

PLEASE STAY WITH THE FAMILY OR SIT IN YOUR CAR UNTIL EITHER THE OPEN TOY BOX CLINICAL DIRECTOR OR COMMITTEE MEMBER OR SOCIAL WORKER ARRIVES.

I have read and understand these guidelines and agree to follow them:

Name.....

Signed

SignedChair

DateReview.....