

Parents' guide

Staying safe with NDCS



NDCS want your children to grow, learn, have fun and stay safe

Safeguarding children

NDCS is committed to safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare. We take our responsibilities very seriously.

We have procedures which are intended to keep children safe when they are involved in NDCS events, or when they are using NDCS services.

What NDCS does

- Checks out activities, buildings and venues to make sure they are safe for your children.
- Makes sure staff and volunteers are suitable to work with your children.
- Makes sure staff and volunteers know what to do if they think your children are being harmed at home or somewhere else.
- Helps children and young people to treat each other with respect.
- Gives you and your children information to help keep them safe, especially online.
- Gives communication support to children to make sure they have understood information, especially about safety.

NDCS Events

NDCS carries out thorough risk assessments on all our events and activities through the process of a careful examination of what could cause harm to staff and visitors.

The arrangements put in place as a result of the assessments are designed to minimise risk across NDCS with specific focus on possible risks to deaf children and young people. This includes fire safety, administration of medicines, use of equipment and training for staff and volunteers. We also make sure that insurance is in place for our events.

When choosing external venues for children's residential events, or activities which are more hazardous, it is a requirement that a copy of that venue's risk assessment is provided for the organisers.

Child Protection

NDCS has a child protection policy and procedures to which all staff are expected to work. To create a safe environment for children, young people and staff, the following steps are taken:

- all staff and volunteers working with children and young people are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)/PVG/Access NI checked and references are taken to verify staff suitability,
- all staff and volunteers are supervised and supported in their work,
- all staff and volunteers work to NDCS child protection procedures which are reviewed regularly,
- all staff and volunteers receive training in child protection at a level appropriate to their work,
- all staff, volunteers, children and parents are able to raise concerns about poor or dangerous practice,

If we are concerned that a child or young person may be at risk, whatever the circumstances, we must share our concerns with an appropriate person or agency. Where possible, we will discuss our concerns with parents/carers first. However, there may be circumstances that do not allow us to do so and at such times we will pass on concerns immediately and directly.

When other organisations, such as crèche providers, are used to help with events, NDCS makes sure that their suitability is checked.

NDCS provides communication support for children and young people to make sure they can take part fully and that they have understood safety information.

Staying Safe Online

NDCS provides some services for children and young people which involve the use of the Internet, such as the Buzz website. We make every effort to keep these services safe and to advise children and young people how they can keep themselves safe online. We have an E Safety policy which tells staff and volunteers how they can help keep children safe online.



What you can do

- Make sure your child knows they can talk to you or another adult if an adult or another young person is doing something which harms them.
- Give us the important information we need (e.g. about health conditions, allergies or children's abilities) so that we can take good care of your child at events.
- Make sure your child knows how to keep safe especially online.
- Tell NDCS if there is something you are not happy about.

If you want to know more

Should you wish to see a copy of the NDCS child protection procedures, E Safety Policy, or if you have concerns about a child's safety while involved in NDCS activities, please contact the staff member responsible for organising the project /event or their manager. If you are unclear about who they are or if you are unhappy with their response please contact Lisa Warner on 0121 234 9831 in the first place or, if she is not available, Peter Weston on 01485 609256 or Annie Dodd on 07713 395512.



Other places you can find advice

Department for Education
www.education.gov.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection
ceop.police.uk

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk



ndcs
every deaf child