

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

# THE 5Cs



Be **CHILD** focused

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Ask yourself what is it like for this child living in this house/family? What is the 'lived experience' of this child?

Always be **CURIOUS**

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In challenging times when everyone is trying to do more with less. If we are overwhelmed or weary it is often our curiosity that waivers. Take action: talk with your supervisor or a colleague. If we lack curiosity children are less safe.

**COMMUNICATE** well

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Effective communication helps keep children safe. Ensure your communication with your safeguarding lead, with colleagues, with families, and with children is effective. Poor communication within and between agencies is a red flag/danger zone.

Know your **CONTEXT**

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Adhere to, and regularly review, the safeguarding policies and procedures for your setting.

Be **CLEAR** about the child's status

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Local reviews have highlighted how not knowing the status of a child has resulted in avoidable mistakes with extremely serious consequences. Be clear: is this child **already** receiving Early Help, are they a Child in Need or on a child protection plan? Ensure there is clear and timely communication with those already involved.