

Autism Explorers: Child Protection & Safeguarding

(Last updated: October 2025)



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Autism Explorers is a community group within Norfolk providing support for SEN families through; Sensory Saturday Stay & Plays with child-led play, inclusive Trips and Events, 1-1 skills development, workshops, etc. and by having a skilled, trained and dedicated team.

By booking and using our services you are agreeing to our terms and conditions.

Last Updated: Monday 6th October 2025

Child Protection & Safeguarding Statement:

Autism Explorers is committed to providing a safe, secure and nurturing environment for all children, families and visitors who attend our sessions, trips and events, 1-1's, workshops, etc.

Our child protection and safeguarding policy & practices reflect the statutory responsibilities, government guidance and best practices for working with children - Partially those with autism and additional needs.

We recognise our duty of care to protect children from harm and actively promote their welfare and wellbeing.

Designated Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Name: Lillian Forster

Deputy DSL: Emma Forster

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) has overall responsibility for safeguarding at Autism Explorers - Including reporting concerns, maintaining records, and ensuring child protection and safeguarding policies & practices are followed.

Autism Explorers Team Members:

All Autism Explorers Team Members are subject to safer recruitment practices, including enhanced DBS checks. Receiving regular training and understanding of child protection and

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safeguarding appropriate to their roles - Including training on autism-specific safeguarding concerns.

A minimum of one team member will be present at every session, trip and event, 1-1', workshop, etc. - This team member will also be first aid trained.

Autism Explorers will always act professional and maintain appropriate boundaries.

Key Principles:

The welfare of the child is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from harm.

Recognising Abuse and Responding to Concerns:

All Autism Explorers Team Members are trained to recognise the signs of abuse, which may include; Physical (e.g. Unexplained injuries), Emotional (withdrawn behaviours and sudden changes), Sexual (Age-inappropriate knowledge or behaviours), Mental (Withdrawal, isolation, aggression or defiance) and Neglect (Hygiene concerns and lack of medical attention).

If a concern arises, Autism Explorers Team Members must report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will then assess the concern and decide on the appropriate next steps - Including contacting the local services and authorities if needed.

All concerns are recorded with all of the relevant information, dated and sorted securely.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Autism Explorers Team Members must never promise confidentiality to a child if a safeguarding concern is raised.

Partnership with Parents, Carers & Guardians:

We aim to build trusting relationships with parents, carers and guardians to work collaboratively to support the children's wellbeing.

When and where appropriate; parents, carers and guardians will be involved if a safeguarding concern arises - Unless doing so would put the child at greater risk.

Online Safety:

Consent is obtained before any photographs, videos and other media are taken - This will be on every booking form and must be answered each time you book.

Personal information about a child will never be shared publicly.

Allegations Against Autism Explorers Team Members:

If an allegation is made against a team member; it must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL. Following this the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted for advice and further action.

The individual may be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation.

Whistleblowing:

All Autism Explorers Team Members are encouraged to report concerns about poor and unsafe practices to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy DSL or to external safeguarding services and authorities if necessary.

Contacts:

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	01603223473
Children's Services CADS for Norfolk	03448008020

Emergency Services - Police, Fire or Ambulance	999
Police Non-Emergency	101