Emotional Abuse

Early Years

You are concerned about a 4 year old boy. His Mum is a single parent and is just 18 years old. When she picks Jonah up she does not interact with him.

During play you observe Jonah hitting and shouting at a toy. He is telling the toy that he is stupid and should shut up and be a good boy. In seeking to clarify with Jonah what you have observed he shuts down.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record any of this, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?

Immediate

Record your concerns using the Record of Concern form.

If you are not the designated Safeguarding lead, refer to the Designated Lead. Discuss the above concerns with the DSL, share with her the examples.

Next steps – these may be actioned by the Designated Lead

Speak to Mum about concerns sharing the observations of staff, be honest and refer directly to your concerns around emotional harm.

Seek to clarify what support she has and whether she would like additional support.

Consider opening a CAF with specific activities between Mum and Jonah to build upon the positives of their relationship.

Consider involvement of others– health visitor, GP and extended family.

Ensure records of discussions are included within the safeguarding file.
Primary:

You are concerned about a 9 year old boy. His Mum is a single parent and is a very young Mum. When she picks Connor up she does not interact with him. Other parents have been in and have raised concerns with regard to Mums harsh language and physical warmth.

In observing a disagreement with a friend during playtime Connor responds disproportionately and shouts ‘you are a stupid worthless piece of shit’. In seeking to clarify with Connor what you have observed he becomes very distressed and is anxious that his Mum does not find out. He goes on to tell you that he has learnt these words from his mum who speaks to him like that when he is naughty, and tells him that if he carries on being naughty he will be taken away from her.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record any of this, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?

Immediate

Record your concerns using the Record of Concern form.

If you are not the designated Safeguarding lead, refer to the Designated Lead. Discuss the above concerns with the DSL, share with her the examples.

Next steps – these may be actioned by the Designated Lead

Speak to Mum about concerns sharing the observations of staff, be honest and refer directly to your concerns around emotional harm.

Seek to clarify what support she has and whether she would like additional support.

Consider opening a CAF with specific activities between Mum and Connor to build upon the positives of their relationship.

Consider involvement of others– school health, GP and extended family.

Ensure records of discussions are included within the safeguarding file.
Secondary:

You are concerned about Sally, a 13 year old girl in the school. She has a severely autistic brother who has a major impact on family life. As a result of her brothers needs her mother’s mental health has deteriorated.

Sally’s presentation in school is raising concerns across the teaching group. She is becoming more withdrawn and closing herself off from friendship groups due to the demands of home. Her school work is also suffering.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record this, and if so what and where?
- What actions should be taken in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?

Immediate

Record you concerns on a school Record of Concern form.

If you are not the designated Safeguarding lead, refer to the Designated Lead.

With the DSL decide who would be best to approach the parents with the above concerns, maybe meeting with parents and pastoral lead to raise your concerns in a more formal arena. It should raise the concerns you have for their daughter’s emotional mental health and potential for harm due to her role as a young carer. Consider access to pastoral support within school e.g. school counsellor.

Consider opening a CAF to address the needs the needs of the whole family.

Refer to the local Young Carer’s group.

Discuss with Mum the potential support services for herself through both the GP, Mental Health Services and Parenting support groups.

Ongoing

Continue to monitor and support.

Ensure everything is recorded accurately.