



Pre-existing Injuries

Definition of a Pre-Existing Injury:

A pre-existing injury is an injury that occurred when the child was in the care of a parent/carer or an injury that has occurred when the child has been in the care of another care professional e.g. another nursery/or a childminder and arrives at the setting with this injury.

Policy:

If a child arrives at Bluebell Nursery with an existing injury, the parent/carer must inform staff on their arrival and will be asked to complete a 'Pre-existing condition' Form with a staff member on the Evolve accident book, detailing how the injury occurred and ensuring staff members have current information about a child if they become unwell as a result of the injury.

If staff members notice a pre-existing injury, however, and were not made aware by the parents, staff must open a 'Pre-existing condition' form for parents to complete with them on collection.

The form contains the following information:-

- Child's full name
- Child's date of birth
- Date and time of injury
- Description of injury (Where and what is the injury)
- How did the injury happen?
- Any treatment or medical aid sought
- Parent/Carer signature

Storage of 'Pre-Existing Injury' forms

All pre-existing forms are stored securely on Evolve Accident book and kept archived for 25 years. A copy will be emailed to parents.



Why we record Pre-Existing injuries

All staff at Bluebell Nursery must ensure we are undertaking our duty and following our child protection responsibilities.

A child may feel uncomfortable or be in pain if they have sustained an injury or have bruising so all staff need to be aware to ensure continuity of care. It may feel intrusive to be asked questions about an injury but please feel reassured we are acting in your child's best interests.

Staff are asked to consider when asking parents/carers for an explanation about how the injures/incident occurred:

- Encourage parents to share details of children's pre-existing injuries with their key people at drop off time.
- Timing – you must speak to parents on the same day. You may need to speak to the parents on the telephone if the injury has been noticed after the parent has dropped the child off, or if someone different is collecting the child.
- Consider your tone of voice and body language, this should not be accusational. Avoid asking leading questions.
- Consider whether the explanation is plausible. If not, share this immediately with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What do staff need to consider, to determine whether a pre-existing injury should be reported?

- Always consider the signs and symptoms of child abuse, particularly physical harm, does the injury seem plausible based on your knowledge and understanding of the individual child and family circumstances.
- Does the explanation from parent/carer appear to be plausible?
- Consider the age and stage of development of the child, could the injury have been accidental based on your knowledge of the individual child.



- Consider whether there are particular risk factors, such as the child having special educational needs / disabilities.
- Has there been a change in the families/child's behaviour that has prompted you to have concerns.

Please note that all incidents of bruising in infants who are not independently mobile must be referred to the Norfolk Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8020.