

Safeguarding for all events

Our storytelling sessions and parties are for children. The protection and safety of children is paramount in the work we do.

We require contact information of anyone booking into a storytelling session. This includes email address, telephone number, and postal address where possible (we also require this information from anyone booking an online party).

We make it clear on the booking form that the sessions are for children; therefore a child must be present, unless previously arranged with Story Craft Theatre, for example in the case where adult relatives are attending a birthday party.

We require a responsible adult to be present for each household at all times. This is for standard safety reasons as well as being able to support the participating child/children throughout if required.

If we, at any time, observe behaviour from an attending child within the group or their supervising adult that we deem unacceptable (including, but not limited to: continual disruption, bad language, inappropriate body language, bullying) then we would take the appropriate steps to deal with this. Depending on the severity of the behaviour and how it impacts upon other participants within the group, we may undertake the following:

1. Privately message
2. We have the option to turn off videos and sound if required to save other attendees observing anything
3. Removing them from meeting
4. Contacting local safeguarding team
5. Calling the Police

In undertaking any intervention our first priority is to ensure the safety of any affected child in a timely manner. For example, if the child is being pushed by an older sibling then we may feel that we can address this with minimal disruption to the group and then contact the supervising adult afterwards. If what we see is more severe, then we would have to make a choice at that moment. We also have to consider other participants in the sessions and what they can observe as well.

If a child approaches us requiring help due to abuse or neglect then we would find the appropriate means to acknowledge that we have heard them and we will help them. If necessary we may talk to our local safeguarding team for best options.

If we observe any possible indicators of abuse or neglect of a participating child such as cuts and bruises, change of behaviour, or being particularly withdrawn, then we would again take immediate guidance from our local safeguarding team.