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The place to learn, share and grow

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Secure smiles - safe photography in nurseries

When photographing children in nursery settings, safeguarding must come first.

Here are 10 tips to support you in maintaining child safety, privacy, and well-being when using photography in your setting.

1. Under the UK's data protection laws (Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR), an image of a child is personal data. It is therefore a legal requirement that consent is obtained from the parent/carer of a child before capturing, storing, or sharing any images, particularly for use on websites, social media, newsletters or marketing materials. Clearly outline how, where and why, images are to be used and allow parents to opt out. Renew consent forms annually or earlier if deemed necessary

2. Create a clear, comprehensive photography and consent policy that all staff can easily access and understand. Ensure it's communicated to all staff and that strict guidelines are adhered to regarding when and where to take photos and of whom. Staff should challenge anyone who is using a camera, mobile phone, or any other recording devices, such as Smart glasses, without authorisation, for example prospective parents on a nursery tour

3. Respect the rights of children; some children do not like to have their photograph taken. Never photograph children in sensitive situations such as during personal care or when they are distressed. All staff should model respectful behaviour by asking children for consent before taking their photos and explaining, in simple language, why the photo is being taken

4. Photographs and videos of events: To avoid any breaches of data protection it is advisable that settings take their own 'official' photos or videos, in order to retain control over the images produced and where they are shared

5. Store images on secure, password-protected devices. Avoid using personal devices

6. Limit access to the photos, and ensure only authorised staff can view or use them

7. Be mindful of content. Avoid using photos that may be misinterpreted. Photos for use in public arenas, such as nursery social media/website, are safer as group photos rather than photos of single children

8. Regularly review and audit photos. Delete photos that are no longer needed and establish guidelines about how long photos will be stored

9. Only use approved, secure platforms for sharing images with parents/carers. Ensure that sharing platforms have privacy settings enabled, so that only intended users can access the photos

10. Have a clear process for reporting any accidental sharing or breaches of the policy. Take immediate action to rectify any breach, such as removing photos from unauthorised platforms or tightening access to shared storage.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [Safeguarding and Child Protection](#) – online course
- [Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs](#) – face to face training

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna