

# WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

## Is it the child's behaviour/play?

### Does the child appear to be:

- happy?
- safe?

### Are you worried about:

- what the child is saying or how they are saying it?
- what the child is doing or how they are doing it?

## Is it the way the child interacts with their parent/carer?

### Does the child:

- use the adult as a safe haven?
- look to the adult for reassurance?
- respond willingly to the adult?

### Does the adult:

- listen to the child?
- behave with warmth and affection to the child?
- encourage the child?

## REPORT IT

For more information visit  
[www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)  
and select **REPORT IT**



## Is it the way the adult is behaving?

### Is the adult:

- prioritising the needs of the child?
- aware of the child's safety, wellbeing and feelings?

### Are you worried:

- about the way the adult looks?
- about the way the adult is behaving
- about what the adult is saying **to** the child?
- about what the adult is saying **about** the child?

## Is it the child's appearance?

### Is the child:

- dressed for the weather?
- clean and healthy looking?
- energetic?
- free from discomfort or pain?

From  
birth  
to 18  
years  
old



If you are concerned, follow the Warwickshire Safeguarding flowchart and share concerns with your Designated Safeguarding Lead or telephone **Family Connect on 01926 414144**.

**Out of hours Emergency Duty Team contact: 01926 886922**



	Child's behaviour/feelings	Child's appearance	Interaction with parent/carer	Adult's behaviour
<b>Baby (0-1 year)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insecure</li> <li>• Frustrated</li> <li>• Watchful/Wary</li> <li>• Rocking Head banging</li> <li>• Flinching</li> <li>• Fearful</li> <li>• Excessive attention seeking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained sores or bruises</li> <li>• Pale</li> <li>• Dirty</li> <li>• Smelly</li> <li>• Not dressed for the weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frustrated</li> <li>• No eye contact</li> <li>• No smiles</li> <li>• Baby does not seek carer's attention e.g. by crying etc</li> <li>• Baby apprehensive or mistrustful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves baby to cry for long periods</li> <li>• Rough handling of baby</li> <li>• Complain about the baby</li> <li>• Seems excessively irritated with baby</li> <li>• Seems unable to cope with baby</li> <li>• Scared or partner/spouse</li> <li>• Drug or alcohol misuse</li> </ul>
<b>Toddler (2-4 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexualised language</li> <li>• Hungry</li> <li>• No speech</li> <li>• Loner - plays alone</li> <li>• No distress at being left</li> <li>• May not want to go home</li> <li>• No experience with sharing</li> <li>• Very clingy</li> <li>• Aggressive</li> <li>• Excessive attention seeking</li> <li>• Not able/willing to explore surroundings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained sores or bruises</li> <li>• Pale</li> <li>• Dirty</li> <li>• Smelly</li> <li>• Untreated head lice</li> <li>• Inadequate clothing</li> <li>• Thin/obese</li> <li>• Tooth decay/poor dental hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hits parent/carer</li> <li>• Withdrawn</li> <li>• Demands attention or alternatively may not seek out carer</li> <li>• Child tries to care for adult</li> <li>• Lack of boundaries</li> <li>• Child apprehensive or mistrustful</li> <li>• Limited supervision of internet usage and appropriate boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough handling of toddler</li> <li>• Not aware of what toddler is doing/where they are</li> <li>• Seems excessively irritated with toddler</li> <li>• Seems unable to cope with toddler</li> <li>• Highly critical of child in front of them</li> <li>• Scared or partner/spouse</li> <li>• Drug or alcohol misuse</li> </ul>
<b>Primary school age (4-11 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexualised language and play</li> <li>• Masturbation in public</li> <li>• Hungry</li> <li>• No friends</li> <li>• Difficult to control</li> <li>• School avoidance</li> <li>• Self harm</li> <li>• Limited/no speech</li> <li>• Not interacting with environment</li> <li>• Low self-esteem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pale</li> <li>• Dirty</li> <li>• Smelly</li> <li>• Poor dental hygiene</li> <li>• Untreated head lice</li> <li>• Inadequate clothing</li> <li>• Thin/obese</li> <li>• Unexplained bruises/injuries</li> <li>• Unexplained possessions e.g. phone/money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawn</li> <li>• Child acting as carer</li> <li>• Over protective parent</li> <li>• Angry/aggressive/violent/hostile</li> <li>• Child apprehensive or mistrustful</li> <li>• Limited supervision of internet usage and appropriate boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough handling of child</li> <li>• Not aware of activities or whereabouts of child</li> <li>• Highly critical of child in front of them</li> <li>• Worried about their own problems/issues</li> <li>• Scared of child</li> <li>• Scared or partner/spouse</li> <li>• Drug or alcohol misuse</li> </ul>
<b>Adolescent (12-18 years)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promiscuous</li> <li>• Risk taking/drugs/alcohol</li> <li>• Loner</li> <li>• Angry</li> <li>• Depressed</li> <li>• School avoidance</li> <li>• Self harm</li> <li>• Feelings of inadequacy/Low self-esteem</li> <li>• Out of control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pale</li> <li>• Dirty</li> <li>• Smelly</li> <li>• Inadequate clothing</li> <li>• Thin/obese</li> <li>• Unexplained bruises/injuries</li> <li>• Unexplained possessions e.g. phone/money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaming</li> <li>• Young person acting as carer</li> <li>• Over protective parent</li> <li>• Angry/aggressive/violent/hostile</li> <li>• Young person apprehensive or mistrustful</li> <li>• Limited supervision of internet usage and appropriate boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough handling of young person</li> <li>• Not aware of activities or whereabouts of young person</li> <li>• Highly critical of child in front of them</li> <li>• Inappropriately reliant on young person for everyday issues</li> <li>• Scared of young person</li> <li>• Scared or partner/spouse</li> <li>• Drug or alcohol misuse</li> </ul>

**This is not an exhaustive list, simply a guide to some unusual behaviours or observations which MAY be cause for concern.**