

# The 4 Rs of Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. The 4 Rs of Safeguarding Children is professional practice for how you can recognise, record, report and refer in the situation of child abuse.

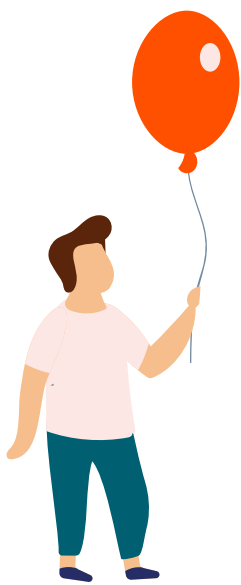


## Recognising

To begin the process of following the 4 Rs, you must first be able to recognise the signs of abuse. This may be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect.

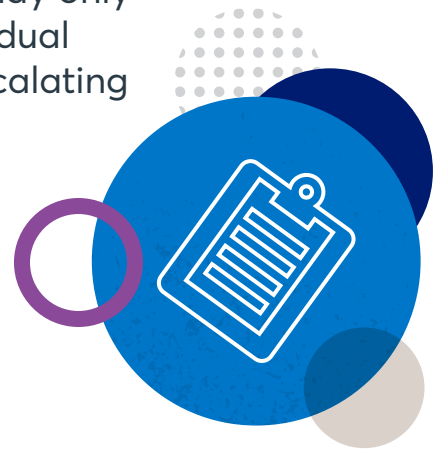
## Recording

This is the crucial part. Ask yourself, 'Why did it happen? When did it happen? What happened? Who said it? What was going on? What was happening at the time? Who was around? Why that time?'



## Reporting

Do you have to share this information? Does it have to be done immediately? You may only know this by understanding your individual policies and procedures, in terms of escalating safeguarding concerns.



## Refer

Is there an immediate risk of harm to this child or children? If so, ring the police, ring the local authority, and do not delay. If this is not urgent, make the referral when you need to, make it in a timely manner and the local authority will take over their steps as appropriate or the police will act as they see fit.

So remember...  
Recognise it. Record it. Report it. Refer it.