

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Hannah Pallôt or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Rachel Heffer immediately with any concerns.

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What is a Body Map?

A body map is an essential resource that forms part of our child protection and safeguarding toolkit. Its function falls primarily within child protection and a body map is used to record physical injuries inflicted on or suffered by a child or young person. Body maps are available in paper form and digitally through our Safeguarding Recordkeeping service My Concern and, at their most basic, they provide an outline drawing of a generic child's body. For disclosures that include aspects of physical abuse, when completed accurately, body maps prove an invaluable record of the dates and appearance of visible injuries and marks of concern. This data can form a vital part of the chronology of a child.

Body Maps

Why are Body Maps important?

Children are often not aware they are being abused, so we all have a duty to be vigilant. This is particularly true if:

- The locations or types of injuries are questionable. (see previous 7MS Bruising 4.4.22 for further details)
- There seems to be a pattern of injuries a child sustains that is beyond the usual 'rough and tumble' of childhood.
- When asked about an injury, a child or parent or carer's explanation is confusing, changes, or just doesn't quite add up.
- A child's body language becomes uncomfortable or they seem anxious when asked about marks or wounds; children tend to be happy to discuss details of genuine accidental injuries.

How to record on a Body Map

- A body map is straightforward to use. Simply, annotate the picture to show the location of the injury or mark. The type, size, colour and any other relevant information must also be recorded.
- At P-a-W we usually use the digital My Concern version which enables the adult reporting to click the location of the injury on the body map and add notes regarding the type and size of injury.
- Multiple injuries can be recorded on a single body map.
- Any disclosure the child has made should be recorded following the disclosure procedure as detailed in the annual safeguarding training.
- If recording on a paper version, always use pen (never pencil) and do not use Tipp-Ex to correct a mistake, either use a new map or cross it through and initial the mistake.
- Paper copies should be dated and signed by the adult completing them and they must be handed to the DSL/ DDSL immediately. Paper copies will be scanned and added to the My Concern report.

Staff should NEVER take photographs of a child's injuries nor should they ask children to remove clothing.

Seek advice from the DSL or DDSL if you require any guidance.

For further information and a more detailed article on Body Maps, [follow this link](#).

What do Body Maps look like?

This is the body map found on My Concern. It shows the front and back of the body as well as the head in more detail. In a solely Early Years setting the body map will likely be of a baby. Sometimes body maps also contain diagrams of the soles of feet or the hands in more detail.

