

sensitively or be more inquisitive to ensure you are confident about the arrangements in place.

In Somerset there are a number of websites and organisations which list activities in the County and the local area. These are only listings and do not involve any safeguarding checks unless specifically identified.



Somerset County Council is currently involved in the Give it a Go! scheme, where children on free schools meals and children in care can access after school activities for free.

Providers of Give It A Go! activities have been through basic checks, but we continue to advise parents and carers to make their own checks as well. If you wish to use Give It A Go! funds for an after school activity, please contact your child's school and they will advise you if the activity provider has been checked. Should you choose to use a provider who has not been checked or does not have a CRB in place Somerset County Council will ask you to sign a disclaimer.

2/2/2011

Who to Contact:

- **Somerset Direct**
Children and Young People's Team
Tel: 0845 345 9122
- **Child-Safe Team**
Police Headquarters
Tel: 01275 816131
www.child-safe.org.uk
- **Avon and Somerset Constabulary,**
Police Headquarters.
Tel: 0845 456 7000
- **Children's Social Care**
Emergency Duty Team
(Out of hours, weekends
and public holidays)
Tel: 01458 253241
- **Childline**
Tel: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Important information for the
parents and carers of children
participating in
out of school hours activities

*Extended Schools Services
Room A134
Hestercombe House
Cheddon Fitzpaine
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 8LG*

**Tel: 01823 410117
Mob: 07887 871859**

To the Parent/Carer

This information is to help you take an active role in ensuring the safety of your children.

The majority of clubs, groups and individuals who provide after school activities will have undertaken CRB checks, and have child protection policies, this is, however, not always the case.

All organisations that work with children are encouraged to meet good safeguarding standards, but legally only some are obliged to meet these requirements, dependent upon the size of the provision, the age of the children, the timing of the activities and other issues.

If you have any concerns about safeguarding issues contact one of the organisations listed overleaf.

Joining a Club, Group or Activity run by an Organisation or business

Before letting your child join any club or group, or sending them on any organised activity the following points should be kept in mind:

- When you talk to other parents/carers about the group, club or individual – are they confident their child is in safe hands?

- Ask staff and volunteers if they have been police checked and how long they have been involved with the club, group or individual.
- Ask the police or local authority if they have any links with the club, group or individual.
- Find out if the club/group/individual is well-known in the local community?
- How long has it existed?
- Is it known to local schools, churches, health centres, youth and community services?
- How many adults will supervise the children?
- Will your child always be with other children and never left alone with an adult or adults?
- Find out what are the changing and toilet arrangements?
- Are the parents/carers encouraged to get involved?
- Has the club/group/individual produced a written policy which clearly states its commitment to protect the children in its care from abuse?
- Is it part of a bigger organisation with clear child protection rules?
- Does it state the qualifications (e.g. Child Protection Training) and responsibilities of the staff and volunteers?
- Is there a qualified first aider on hand?
- Do they have a procedure or contact details if they need to contact you urgently?

If you know any of the other parents/carers well, some of these tasks can be shared.

Once your child has joined:

- Call in from time to time to see what is going on.
- Talk to your child about the activities and listen carefully if your child seems reluctant to attend.
- Talk to other parents/carers.
- Don't be afraid to call Somerset Direct if you have a concern which you are not sure what to do with; it will be treated confidentially and appropriately.

You can also contact **Somerset Families Information**, who can also tell you about safeguarding arrangements for nurseries and childcare provision on the Somerset Direct number of via the Somerset County Council website www.somerset.gov.uk

One to One Provision

Arrangements can be different when your child is going to an individual for an activity e.g. a music lesson, subject support or a therapy session.

These often happen in the provider's home on a one to one basis. Again you can use many of the checks advised before, but may need to use them more