

**Bristol City Council – Accidents in Foster Care Policy**

**Background and Legal Framework**

Regulation 22(1) requires fostering services to keep ‘a record of all accidents occurring to children whilst placed with foster parents’.

**What to do when an accident happens:-**

We know that children have accidents and get bumps and bruises.

Its an expectation that Bristol foster carers keep a written record of any accidents the children in their care have and share this record with their supervising social worker and the childs social worker as soon as practical to do so. This should include the following details:-

* What happened
* Who was present
* Was there any injury/treatment required

This can be recorded as part of your standard recording or as an email. Recording and sharing these details will not adversely impact on the child’s sense of normal family life and will help ensure that there is a clear account of how the accident happened and any injuries and is an important part of ensuring safer care.

The level of detail recorded will depend on the severity of the accident, and any other circumstances that might result in particular oversight of what has happened.  A general rule its helpful to remember is that there will be no criticism for recording too much or reporting too often however there may be concerns if accidents aren’t recorded or if there is limited detail.

Any serious incidents or injuries should be reported immediately by telephone to the childs social worker and your supervising social worker, if they are not available please contact the duty services below:-

Office Hours Fostering Duty Social Worker - **0117 3534196**.

Out of Hours Fostering Service 5pm-11pm - **07795091345**.

11pm-08:30am South West Emergency Duty Team - **01454 615165**

**This should be followed up by a written record as soon as possible and the team manager and service manager informed.**