

G34 - Additional Vulnerabilities in Children Information

Children can be identified as having increased vulnerability in a variety of settings and under a number of different circumstances, these can be categorised but not limited to:

- Disabled children (physical, emotional, intellectual disabilities etc)
- Sick children in a hospital setting, hospice or a children's home
- Children in families where domestic abuse/violence is present
- Children in families where drug/alcohol use is affecting parenting
- Children in families where parents/guardians/carers have mental health issues/learning difficulties/disabilities causing problems coping with parenthood
- Children growing up with parents in prison
- Children in families where the child is a "young carer" for a parent/guardian/carer who is physically/mentally ill or disabled
- Children who are primary carers of younger children
- Looked after children (looked after by Children's care services/local authority)
- Children living in un-registered private fostering arrangements
- Children who are bullied
- Children of young/unsupported parents
- Children living in poverty/poor housing

It is important if you have children in your setting with additional vulnerabilities that you are aware of these and take actions to ensure that they are supported sufficiently. This may mean having specific care plans, risk assessments, specialist training or even just an awareness of topics to avoid and indicators to look for.

Liaising with the child's parent/carer can be beneficial in understanding the child's needs and how best to support them best. In addition, and with consent, it may be useful to liaise with the child's education setting as they may be able to share key information such as support plans, risk assessments and communication resources that will support the child's engagement in paddling.

Having a good understanding of a child's additional vulnerabilities and needs and how best to support them will mean you are in a better position to make their paddling experience positive, safe and meaningful. It will also mean your work as a coach, Leader or volunteer working with them easier and more enjoyable.