

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

We believe that the welfare of all children is of paramount importance and that the service has an obligation to defend the child’s right to care and protection. All employees have a responsibility to take action to protect children they suspect may be abused or neglected. All children have the right to be safe, and the provision of safe environments is essential in preventing injury and enabling them to grow and develop. Our service will carry out responsibilities and will fulfil our duty of care in responding to abuse and neglect as indicated under legislation under the Children's Protection Act 1993 Section 11(1) & (2). We will adhere to the DfE policy on Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services. (This policy is available at www.dfe.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/ChildProtectioninSchoolsE.pdf)

Procedure:

- The Children’s Protection Act 1993 requires educators and volunteers to make a mandatory notification (13 14 78) if they suspect, on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected – this responsibility is part of the broad duty of care that educators and volunteers have towards the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- All educators must complete ‘Responding to Risk of Harm, Abuse and Neglect Education and Care Training’ prior to working with children. The service will pay for this training along with required refresher courses.
- ‘Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, Mandatory Notification Guidelines’ (see appendix 14) are held at the service and must be read and understood by educators, Governing Council and Advisory Committee – these guidelines will also be available for families.
- Employer and employee obligations in relation to allegations of child abuse are included in educators and Advisory Committee handbooks
- Families will be made aware that the employees and volunteers of the service are mandated notifiers under the Act.
- If an educator suspects abuse, they should follow guidelines from ‘Responding to Risk of Harm, Abuse and Neglect Training’
- Educators are encouraged to discuss any issues or concerns with the Director prior to making a mandatory notification.
- Educators should remember that it is not their responsibility to prove the abuse, just to have reasonable suspicion that abuse or neglect has occurred.
- Reports will be treated with strict confidentiality.
- Educators will leave the situation in the hands of the Child Abuse Report Line once a report has been made – educators will follow the advice given by the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL).

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.



2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

Policy reviewed	Previous modifications	Next review date
26/10/2021	NO CHANGES	2022