

# HACKHAM WEST CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## 1.4 CHILD PROTECTION

### AIM

*The aim of this policy is to provide a non-threatening, reassuring and caring environment for every child.  
'Creating child-safe environments is not just the responsibility of government, but for all us as individuals, families and communities working together'*

*Hon. Jay Weatherill*

### PROCEDURE

#### Curriculum

Ensure that curriculum strategies for Child Protection are an integral part of the centre:

- to ensure an integrated approach to child protection curriculum within the centre
- be aware of community support services- eg agencies, counselling and to refer when necessary.
- the Family Services Coordinator involvement would be advisable.
- to maintain absolute confidentiality and follow *Information Sharing Guidelines*
- Preschool staff participate in Child Protection Curriculum Training and information and /or have access to the DECD resource- '*Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum*'

Ensure that all educators, staff members and volunteers are informed that they are mandated to notify any suspicion of child abuse

Ensure that all adults working in the centre have a:

- current Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Child-Related Employment Screening
- current Responding to Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care training

Follow DECD *Child protection in schools, early childhood education and care policy*

Initial concerns about any child will be documented in an objective format following *Process for Monitoring Child and Family Behaviour* and reported to the Director (if absent- or the Director is the person involved- the Assistant Director or a Team Leader).

It is required - as mandated notifiers - for educators, who are unsure if there are reasonable grounds, to make a notification, to contact and consult with the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78, complete a Mandatory Notification Record and discuss their report with the Director.

Information Sharing Guidelines are used to support inter-agency efforts to improve family and community safety.

### EVALUATION:

This policy is to be viewed to be working effectively when:

- All staff report suspicious incidents.
- Incidents of suspected child abuse are dealt with in a caring and professional manner.
- All educators involved in any child protection issue receive appropriate access to support services.

### SOURCES:

- 'Keeping Safe child Protection Curriculum' 2017
- Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services 2015
- Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings.2013
- Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people.2017
- HWCC Process for monitoring concerning child and family behaviour 2017