

Port Pirie West Children's Centre

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy 13: Child Safe Environment (Child Protection)

Rationale

Port Pirie West Children's Centre (PPWCC) has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children accessing the service. We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of Educators, Allied Health staff, Community Development Coordinator, families and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants and will provide training, resources, information and guidelines to support this.

Preschool teachers are trained to implement the 'Keeping Safe: Child Protection Child Curriculum. All Educators, Allied Health staff, Community Development Coordinator, Admin officers, volunteers, tradespeople and other professionals will be required to have a Department for Human Services Working with Children Check before working directly with / near children. All Educators, Allied Health, Community Development Coordinator, Governing Council members and regular volunteers are required to complete the current Department for Education 'Responding to Risks of Abuse, Harm and Neglect' Early Childhood (RRHAN – EC) course.

It is a requirement by law for all staff to report any suspected cases of child abuse, including:

Concerns about a child or a young person that involve:

- *Physical abuse*
- *Neglect*
- *Emotional maltreatment*
- *Sexual abuse*
- *The witnessing of family violence*
- *'A child in care' (Department for Child Protection)*

Any Educator noticing suspicious marks or bruises on a child must notify the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 or register online www.reportchildabuse.families.sa.gov.au with the Department for Child Protection. Serious cases must be reported via the 13 1478 report line and not via the online reporting system. Educators or persons concerned for a child's safety are mandated to report their suspicions. The site leader should be informed of a notification and ensure all records are stored securely.

Confidentiality will be respected at all times. Throughout all phases of the child protection process, confidentiality will be maintained and the matter will ONLY be discussed with other professionals who are responsible for ensuring the safety of all children. The decision to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect will be seen as a fundamental professional responsibility of any person employed at the Children's Centre. All interactions between Children's Centre employees and children will comply with the Code of Ethics and any employee suspected of behaving inappropriately will be dealt with in accordance with relevant regulations and legislation.

To be read in conjunction with the DfE Screening and Suitability Policy and procedure.

Detailed information about reporting child abuse is available on the DCP website: <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse>

SOURCED:

Screening and Suitability Policy and Procedure – Department for Education November 2023

Children's Protection 'Keeping them Safe' Amendment Bill 2005 Child Protection Act 1993

Keeping Safe – Child Protection Curriculum 2008

Families SA: Seven Steps to Establishing and Maintaining Child Safe Environments 2008

25 DECD 'Protective Practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people.
Revised September 2011

DECD 'Responding To Abuse and Neglect' course 2012

ECA Code of Ethics - 2009

my.families.sa.gov.au/IDMProv/landing.html

aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/reporting-abuse-and-neglect ECA Code of Ethics – 2016

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum 2014

Department for Child Protection 2018

Department for Human Services 2020

POLICY REVIEWED	November 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	November 2024
-----------------	---------------	------------------	---------------