

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

NQS link: Quality Area 2.3 Each child is protected

CHILD ABUSE REPORT LINE – PHONE 13 14 78

POLICY STATEMENT

The Balharry Memorial Kindergarten and Rural Care centre believes it has a responsibility to all children attending the Service to uphold their right to care and protection. The Centre believes it also has a responsibility to its employees to uphold their right to confidentiality unless allegations of abuse against them are substantiated.

PROCEDURES

- Information about reporting Child Abuse will be held at each site and must be read by staff and Governing Council members. This is also available to parents of children attending the Service, and information about the mandatory requirements of childcare staff will be included in Parent Information publications.
- The Child Protection Policy and employee responsibilities re mandatory notification are included in the staff induction folder.
- Staff will be required to attend training held by DECD or another authorised training organization in relation to responding to abuse and neglect and update their training as required.
- The Director will monitor staff understanding and compliance through ongoing discussion and training
- All staff of child care services, as mandated notifiers, have the legal responsibility to notify, on a reasonable suspicion of abuse and neglect (as defined in S.6 (1) of the Children's Protection Act 1993) and on a reasonable likelihood of the child being at risk (as defined in S 6 (2) (b) (I) and (ii) of the Act).
- If a child makes a disclosure stay calm, listen, tell them you believe them, explain that what has happened is not their fault, reassure them that you will support them and find help for them.
- To make a notification, the notifier should ring the Child Abuse Report Line (phone 13 14 78) and follow the instructions provided.
- In forming a reasonable concern about a child / young person at risk of, or suspected of being the subject of, female genital mutilation, it is advisable to contact the Child Abuse Report Line (phone: 13 14 78) regarding the making of a notification or appropriate referral.
- Staff members who are unsure whether what they have observed or suspect constitutes abuse, neglect or a risk of these, should consult with a worker on the Child Abuse Report Line.
- It is the personal responsibility of the individual staff member (rather than that of the Director of the Service) to notify on suspicion of abuse or neglect.
- Volunteers/parents and students should contact the Director with any child protection concerns.
- Recorded observations of children relating to indicators of abuse or neglect will be kept in a confidential file.
- Confidentiality in relation to families will be maintained.
- Families with specific protection needs will be supported within the service e.g. adherence to court orders, sensitivity to children's apprehensions.
- Families are to provide written documentation of any custody arrangements or other court orders which may affect the child's attendance at the centre.
- The Child Protection Curriculum is an integral part of our teaching
- Caring, protective and encouraging forms of touch are healthy and important elements of interaction with children. Staff should ensure that comfort given is always in a public setting. Children may need to be gently discouraged from excessive hugging. See "Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children."
- If an allegation of abuse or neglect is made against a staff member, a Critical Incident Report will be made via IRMS and the centre will follow direction from DECD.

Sources:

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – Mandated Notification – DECS Participant Workbook 2006

Child Protection Act 1993; DECS Child Protection Curriculum 2008

Protective practices for staff in their interactions with students – DECS, Catholic Education of S.A., Association of Independent Schools of Australia 2011

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