

2.2 Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and the Protection of Children from Harm Policy

The service regards as of utmost importance its role in the protection of children in its care. This includes the moral and legal duties to care for children associated with the service whilst not in the care of their parents or other primary caregivers and committing to the safety and wellbeing of children whilst attending the SAC service.



Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Child Protection Act 1999 and Regulations 2000*
- *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*
- *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and Regulations 2011*
- *Duty of Care*
- *National Quality Standard 2.2 Each child is protected*
- *Policies: 2.5 – Reporting of Child Abuse, 2.6 – Behaviour Support and Management, 2.8 – Anti-bullying, 2.9 – Inclusion and Anti-bias, 2.11 – Including Children with Special/Additional Needs, 2.13 – Use of Photographic and Video Images of Children, 3.3 – Educators Practice, 4.9 – Children's Toileting.*



Procedures

Management, Nominated Supervisors, and educators shall be committed to providing an environment that is safe and always promotes the well-being of all children through:

- *Requiring that educators and management sign a code of conduct (see Policy Group 8 and 10).*
- *Ensuring educator employment and training procedures are implemented so that the service employs suitable people and conducts adequate induction and orientation (see Policy Group 8).*
- *Ensuring educators are directed that, when setting up for all activities, there is a safe physical environment as far as reasonably foreseeable and practicable.*
- *Children are actively supervised to ensure that they are protected from harm caused by:*
 - *Physical injury; and/or*
 - *Harassment and other non-physical harm to the child, whether caused by other children, staff, parents of other children or any other person.*

- Educators seek to ensure that they are not alone at the service with a child, except in an emergency.
- Educators will supervise all areas available to children.
- Written parental permission will be obtained for children to be photographed at the service. Photographs will be for service use only.
- Educators will instruct the children to inform them when going to the toilet and will ensure that the Children's Toileting Policy (see Policy 4.9) is always followed; and
- Educators, ancillary staff, and volunteers are to comply with legal requirements to hold the appropriate child worker clearances under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000

The Approved Provider, or in the case of an Approved Provider being a corporation, the executive officers, will comply with legal requirements to hold a current positive suitability notice under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. The coordinator acts as, or has designated an appropriate person to act as, Quality Officer for the service (see Policy 10.1 – Quality Compliance) and in this capacity:

- Is to keep a copy of the current clearances and suitability notices referred to above; and
- Ensures that the service and its staff are aware of all legislative requirements and changes relating to the protection of children, including under the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Regulations 2011, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and other relevant legislation.

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DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	March 2021	May 2021
		February 2022	July 2022