



Child Safe Environment Policy

Rationale

Educators at The Pines Preschool are responsible for protecting the rights, safety and wellbeing of children in their care. They are aware of child protection laws and take steps to prevent and intervene where abuse and neglect occur.

National Quality Standards

Regulation 168 (policy) and 84 (aware of child protection laws), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018.

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

At our preschool:

- At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
- Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

There are also links to:

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

Educators Responsibilities

- Educators will implement the 'Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services Policy', DfE 2015.
- Teaching staff are trained to deliver 'Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum – Early Years Band Ages 3 – 5'. Teaching staff complete training updates as required.
- All educators must be aware of current child protection laws and what steps to take if they have concerns about children's rights, safety and wellbeing.
- Early childhood educators are mandated reporters and are legally required to report suspected child abuse.
- All staff hold current criminal history clearances and undertake 'Responding to Abuse and Neglect' training (every 3 years).
- Governing Council members and playgroup coordinators must complete a 'Child-related Employment Screening Informed Consent Form' to be screened by the DCSI Screening Unit.
- Volunteers are appropriately screened and inducted.
- Educators implement the 'Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum' at The Pines Preschool.

References:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2018.
- National Quality Standards, 2018
- 'Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services Policy', DfE 2015.
- 'Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people. Guidelines for staff working or volunteering in education and care settings', DfE, 2019.
- 'Children and Young People (Safety) Act', 2017
- 'Responding to problem sexual behaviour in children and young people', DfE, 2013,
- Department Policies available at: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/department/policies>
- Information about Keeping safe: Child Protection Curriculum available at: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/teaching/curriculum-and-teaching/keeping-safe-child-protection-curriculum>

Policy review

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

To be reviewed:

2023