

GREY WARD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

253 Wright Street, Adelaide, SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8231 9195 Fax: (08) 8231 6285



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

- ❖ The Management Committee supports a community effort toward the protection of children from abuse and neglect as a child's development and quality of learning can be seriously affected by incidents of abuse. It is believed that staff members have a fundamental role to play in protection and prevention of abuse and neglect by creating environments where children know they have the right to be safe and supported. At Grey Ward Children's Centre, the interests of children are of paramount consideration.

To be read in conjunction with the Centre's *Rights of the Child* policy and *Guiding Children's Behaviour* policy.

AIMS

- ❖ To promote safer communities for children and families.
- ❖ To provide an environment in which children can develop to their full potential.
- ❖ To support children's voice.
- ❖ To ensure that issues relating to child protection are addressed.
- ❖ To pursue the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ To promote the involvement of parents, other family members, and the community as appropriate: to share understandings and concerns about the needs of children.
- ❖ To ensure the safety and protection of notifiers.
- ❖ To develop and support skilled staff in the area of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ To be advocates for children and early childhood.
- ❖ To meet all legal obligations.
- ❖ To maintain confidentiality.

PROCEDURE

- ❖ Educators undertake training in appropriate Child Safe Environments courses so they are aware of their legal obligations, as well as how to support those suspected of being abused or neglected.
- ❖ Educators will develop and implement strategies which enhance children's well-being and involvement in the everyday curriculum.
- ❖ Educators will develop and implement strategies which encourage children's considerate behaviour so as to foster relationships.
- ❖ Educators, parents and children have access to resource materials relating to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ The Centre is committed to supporting parents and families, particularly those with children identified to be at risk of abuse and neglect because of family stress.

- ❖ All matters relating to suspected child abuse and neglect will be dealt with in a professional manner by ensuring:
 - a non-threatening environment
 - accurate and thorough documentation
 - reassurance and support for the child and Educators involved (if applicable)
 - referral to the appropriate government departments and other support agencies as
 - confidentiality at all times
- ❖ As appropriate, the Centre follows the recommendations developed in *Child Safe Environments*, *Keeping Children Safe Child Protection Curriculum* and *Responding to Problem Sexual Behaviour in Children and Young People | Guidelines for Staff in Education and Care Settings*.

EVALUATION

This policy will be implemented and monitored by staff and the Management Committee. Policies will be regularly reviewed and may be altered due to changes in legislation and practices.

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
Jan 2017		Jan 2018
Jan 2018		Jan 2019

REFERENCES

- Government of South Australia 2008, *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum Early Years Band: Ages 3-5*, DECS Publishing, Hindmarsh, Adelaide
- Government of South Australia 2010, *Responding to Child Sexual Behaviour in Children and Young People: Guidelines for Staff in Education and Care Settings*, DECS Publishing, Hindmarsh, Adelaide.
- Porter, L 2008, *Children Are People Too: A Parent's Guide to Young Children's Behaviour*, 4th edn, East Street Publications, Bowden, Adelaide
- United Nations, *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, viewed 2008 from <http://kidsrights.org>
-