

PROVIDING A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Mandatory Quality Area 2

NQS 2.2 & 7.1



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Purpose

This policy will provide a clear framework of guidelines and procedures to ensure:

- The development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection within our Kindergarten.
- All children attending Strathalbyn Kindergarten are provided with a safe environment.
- The creation of a positive and robust child protection culture.
- All reasonable steps are taken by the Approved Provider, educators and Staff to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children attending Kindergarten.
- The promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within our kindergarten.
- Timely and effective intervention for children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in South Australia.

Broad Policy Statement

Strathalbyn kindergarten is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We support the rights and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers and will provide training, resources, information and guidance to support this.

Strathalbyn Kindergarten is committed to:

- Ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected at all times while also promoting their learning and development
- Ensuring a non-smoking environment for all people
- Fulfilling our duty of care (refer to definitions) obligations under the law by protecting children from any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury and harm
- Ensuring that people caring for children at the service act in the best interests of the child, and take all reasonable steps to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing at all times
- Developing and maintaining a culture in which children feel valued, respected and cared for
- Encouraging active participation from parents/guardians and families at the service, and ensuring that best practice is based on a partnership approach and shared responsibility for children's health, safety, wellbeing and development

Scope

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, Parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Strathalbyn Kindergarten.

Our Child Safe Values and Principles

Our commitment to child safety is based on the following overarching principles:

- All children have a right to be safe.
- The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.

- The views of the child and a child's privacy must be respected.
- Clear expectations for appropriate behavior with children are established.
- The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
- Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our community.
- Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Child protection training is mandatory for all staff, direct contact contractors and direct contact volunteers.

Implementation

In line with State legislation, all educators and volunteers working with children, including student teachers, are required to undergo DCSI Police clearances checks. Regular volunteers and work experience students are also required to undergo a police check.

All educators and volunteers in kindergartens are mandated Reporters and must attend Responding to Abuse and Neglect training and update as required. This means that all kindergarten staff are legally obliged to report any form of suspected child abuse – physical, psychological, sexual and or verbal to the Child Abuse Hotline.

Governing Council members are also required to attend Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training.

Parent Information e.g addresses, phone numbers, medical information & other enrolment data is only shared upon verbal or written consent from the party concerned. Kindergarten educators respect confidentiality of all matters pertaining to the child and family.

The 'Keeping Safe Curriculum' is explicitly taught throughout the year to support children to be aware of safety issues and protect their bodies. Parents receive information on the delivery of the program.

References

DfE Protective Practices for Staff

Keeping Safe Curriculum

DfE Screening and Criminal History Check Policy Guidelines.