



MADGE SEXTON KINDERGARTEN

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy 11: Child Safe Environment (Child Protection)

Rationale

Protecting the safety of children is a fundamental responsibility of this Kindergarten and cannot be compromised by any other considerations. All children have the right to feel and be safe in all their interactions with others, understand what it means to be safe, and be in the care and education of adults whom respect and advocate their safety and wellbeing. Staff have a legal obligation to Respond to Abuse and Neglect by preventing and intervening as trained. Maintaining children's attendance and engagement at preschool is crucial to the safety and wellbeing. This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the DECD Child Safe Environments Policy, ACECQA (National Quality Standards 2.3 & 7.1, regulation 168 (2) (h) regulated regulation 84), and EYLF Principles and Outcome 1 "Children have a Strong sense of identity – children feel safe, secure and supported".

This Kindergarten implements a Child Protection Program, which aims to empower children with strategies to help themselves feel safe. If they are uncomfortable about a situation they are able to help themselves feel safe.

We believe that through this program your children will:

- Become more aware of their feelings and be able to express themselves more clearly.
- Improve their own sense of worth.
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and attitudes.
- Continue to develop good relationships with other children and adults by increasing their own communication skills.
- Increase their problem solving ability.

Curriculum

Two primary themes

- We all have the right to be safe.
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to the people we trust.

Program strategies

Your children will have these themes reinforced through the program in everyday situations, for example, scared of being too high on the climbing equipment, someone is hurting me, etc.

Networking

Your child will learn that there are a variety of people they can talk to for help when needed. This is something they usually know, but may need to be reinforced, e.g. a family member, neighbour, teacher – an adult not a child.

Persistence Expectation

This teaches children that if someone doesn't listen or act on the information they have given them, they can go to another person on their network until the child feels safe again.

One Step Removed

This involves 'what if' situations to increase the children's problem solving skills. They will learn to respond in a depersonalised situation.

Staff can provide further information on the program if you require.

All staff in this Kindergarten have an awareness of the importance of creating **child safe environments** for children and applications in reference to children and child protection. All staff are mandated to have undertaken training in Responding to Abuse and Neglect.

Confidentiality will be respected at all times. Throughout all phases of the child protection process, confidentiality will be maintained and the matter will ONLY be discussed with other professionals who are responsible for ensuring the safety of all children. All staff at Madge Sexton Kindergarten are Mandatory Notifiers. Staff have a legal responsibility to contact CARL on 131478 where they suspect abuse has occurred.

The decision to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect will be seen as a fundamental professional responsibility of any person employed at the Centre. The fundamental professional responsibility of a caregiver to contact Families SA will take priority over the client/worker relationship considerations.

The Centre's main responsibility in this area is to ensure the safety of each and every child and support the children's right to feel safe and secure in their environment.

At Madge Sexton Kindergarten we seek parents' permission to take children's photographs and display them within the Centre and on our Facebook page and website.

This Policy will be shared with all new staff and families, and available to view in the Madge Sexton Kindergarten Policy folder and on the Madge Sexton Kindergarten website.

Endorsed by Staff and Governing Council: August 2018

Review date: August 2020