

PROVIDING A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT Version 1.16

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children accessing the service. We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of Educators, Allied Health staff, Community Development Coordinator, families and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants and will provide training, resources, information and guidelines to support this. Preschool teachers are trained to implement the 'Keeping Safe Child Protection Child Curriculum.

All Educators, Allied Health staff, Community Development Coordinator, Admin officers, volunteers, tradespeople and other professionals will be required to have a Department for Human Services Working With Children Check before working directly with / near children.

All Educators, Allied Health, Community Development Coordinator, Governing Council members and regular volunteers are required to complete the current Department for Education 'Responding to Risks of Abuse, Harm and Neglect' Early Childhood (RRHAN – EC) course.

It is a requirement by law for all staff to report any suspected cases of child abuse, including:

Concerns about a child or a young person that involve:

- *Physical abuse*
- *Neglect*
- *Emotional maltreatment*
- *Sexual abuse*
- *The witnessing of family violence*
- *'A child in care' (Department for Child Protection)*

Any Educator noticing suspicious marks or bruises on a child must notify the Child Abuse Report Line on **13 14 78** or register online www.reportchildabuse.families.sa.gov.au with the Department for Child Protection. Serious cases must be reported via the 13 1478 report line and **not** via the online reporting system. Educators or persons concerned for a child's safety are mandated to report their suspicions. The site leader should be informed of a notification and ensure all records are stored securely.

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. 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 Children's Centre.

All interactions between Children's Centre employees and children will comply with the Code Of Ethics and any employee suspected of behaving inappropriately will be dealt with in accordance with relevant regulations and legislation.

Detailed information about reporting child abuse is available on the DCP website:

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse>

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July 2016, July 2017, July 2018, July 2019, March 2020, April 2021, April 2022

TO BE REVIEWED: April 2023

SOURCED: Children's Protection 'Keeping them Safe' Amendment Bill 2005
Child Protection Act 1993
Keeping Safe – Child Protection Curriculum 2008
Families SA: Seven Steps to Establishing and Maintaining Child Safe Environments 2008



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DECD 'Protective Practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people. Revised September 2011
DECD 'Responding To Abuse and Neglect' course 2012
ECA Code of Ethics - 2009
my.families.sa.gov.au/IDMProv/landing.html
aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/reporting-abuse-and-neglect
ECA Code of Ethics – 2016
Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum 2014
Department for Child Protection 2018
Department for Human Services 2020