



Karoonda Preschool

Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally. (UNICEF)
The Karoonda Preschool has a responsibility to all children attending the services to uphold their right to care and protection. To support this right staff will follow the guidelines and procedures as detailed in the DECD 'Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood and Care Services' policy, when they become aware of possible abuse or neglect of a child to ensure the child's and other children's protection. Abuse may be physical, emotional, and sexual or neglect.

Children need

- Care, safety and protection from abuse
- Counselling and support in the event of abuse

Parents need

- To be assured that every effort is being made to ensure their child is safe
- Counselling and support in the event of abuse of their child

Staff need

- To be aware of the indicators of abuse
- Information about their legal information to report suspected child abuse
- Ongoing training in Responding to Abuse and Neglect/Child Protection Curriculum
- For allegations against staff to be kept confidential unless substantiated. Counselling & support in the event of an unsubstantiated allegation.

Management needs

- To meet their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse
- Clear guidelines and lines of communication with DCSI if abuse is suspected

Procedure

- The 'Child Protection' policy is in the Karoonda Preschool Policy folder for all parents to read.
- The 'Child Protection' policy must be read by new staff prior to the commencement of work. Employee responsibilities in relation to suspicions of child abuse and the need to report it are highlighted to new staff members during induction
- The principal is the person identified for child protection issues at this site
- Staff are required to initially attend a 7 hour course held by DECD or another authorised training organisation and update their training as per requirements
- All staff, as mandated notifiers have the legal responsibility to notify on a reasonable suspicion of abuse and neglect and on a reasonable likelihood of the child being at risk
- If a child makes a disclosure - stay calm, listen, tell them you believe them, explain that what has happened is not their fault, reassure them that you will support them and find help for them
- To make a notification the notifier should ring the Child Abuse Report Line on 131 478
- Staff members who are unsure whether what they have observed or suspect constitutes abuse, neglect or a risk -should complete a 'Notification Checklist: Education & Care', consult with a senior staff member and document
- It is the personal responsibility of each individual staff member to notify on suspicion of abuse or neglect
- Recorded observations of children relating to indicators of abuse or neglect will be kept in a confidential file
- Confidentiality in relation to families will be maintained
- Families with specific protection needs will be supported within the service e.g. adherence to court orders, sensitivity to children's apprehensions
- From 2007 the Child Protection Curriculum is a mandatory part of teaching

- Caring, protective and encouraging forms of touch are healthy and important elements of human interaction. Staff should ensure that comfort given is always in a public setting. Children may need to be gently discouraged from excessive hugging.
- Staff will implement the DECD Curriculum 'Keeping Safe- Child Protection Curriculum'
- Volunteers/ work experience people that are either in direct or indirect contact with children will be required to read 'Child Protection Policy'
- A DECD criminal history check is required for all staff, volunteers, work experience
- Releasing children from the service will be to parents, or to consented/approved persons

NQS Standard: 2.3, 7.1

National Regulation: 168 (2) (h), 84

Policy created date: 23-4-12

Policy Review Due: 2015

Signatures:

Principal

Chairperson, Governing Council