

# Child Protection Policy

**Rationale:** To safe guard children against child abuse. Child abuse covers non-accidental injury including physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.

**Purpose:**

- To Provide a safe environment for all children and educators
- To ensure all educators know and understand the steps to take when dealing with suspected child abuse.

**Te Whariki:** Well-being Goal 3. Children experience an environment where they are kept safe from harm.

**Procedures:**

The principles the educator will implement to ensure children are safe guarded are:

- At all times the welfare of the child is of paramount importance.
- Any child suspected of suffering from abuse must receive prompt attention.
- Children should be safeguarded against child abuse- the educator should act on any concerns.
- What children tell and what the educator sees will be believed.
- The educator will seek help from specialist services is any child is suspected to be suffering from child abuse.
- Information will be recorded factually and accurately as soon as possible. Accountability is important.
- The educator will recognise and be sensitive to cultural differences.
- The responsibility or the well-being of children should be shared with the family. It is important that any interaction does not undermine the family's ability to help themselves or seek assistance.

- The educator will first and foremost take their concerns to the coordinator.
- The educator will support the role of Police and the New Zealand child and young person's service in the investigation of suspected abuse and will report suspected abuse to these agencies.
- Step 2 Growth will assist the educator in finding adequate support.

All practical steps will be taken to protect children from inappropriate material regarding explicitly sexual or violently natured happenings.

The principles that the educator/manager will implement to ensure children are safeguarded in the service environment are:

- The educator has had their history checked, for example- employment references, police checks.
- Educators will participate and attend a professional development opportunity on safeguarding children.
- The service has an open door policy for every home where parents/whanau can freely drop in at any time their child/ren are in care.
- Children will be treated with respect and dignity. The care of children involves physical contact. Physical contact will be carried out in a normal, natural and desirable way, for example: to show affection, to comfort, to reassure, to give praise, to meet children's physical needs, nappy changing and dressing etc.
- The educator will have regular contact with other professionals, including peer assessment.
- Parents/whanau will be made aware and have access to the complaints procedure.
- Parents will be advised that if they have concerns the first person to contact will be the educator/coordinator. If this is not satisfactory then they can advise the Ministry of Education.
- The educator will seek advice and recommendations from specialist services and will act on this advice and these recommendations where appropriate.
- Visitors will not be left alone with the children.

Step 2 Growth excludes any person employed or engaged in the service from coming into contact with children if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person;

- Has physically ill-treated or abused a child or committed a crime against children; or
- In guiding or controlling a child, has subjected the child to solitary confinement, immobilisation, or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter or protection.

Step 2 Growth excludes any person employed or engaged in the service from coming into contact with children if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person:

- Is in a state of physical or mental health that presents any risk of danger to the children, or;
- Has an infectious disease or condition.

Only adults name on the enrolment form are able to collect children from the educator's home.

We value the internet as a learning tool. Only child appropriate websites will be accessed by the educator when exploring with the children.

Call 24/7 for help or to report any concerns:

Local contact number:

Child Youth and Family: 0508 326 459

Marlborough Police: 03 578 5279

Step 2 Growth coordinator: 022 084 2299