

Child Protection Policy Early Childhood

Address: 22A Cedar Ave, West Croydon, SA 5008

Tel: (08) 8340 7799 Email: info@aic.sa.edu.au Website: aic.sa.edu.au

Table of Contents

Child Protection Reporting Overview	3
National Quality Standard	3
National Regulations	3
Related Documentation	4
Implementation	4
Child Protection	4
Procedures for Reporting and Documenting Abuse or Neglect	4
What is abuse and neglect?	4
Responsibilities	5
The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff members and volunteers must:	5
The Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor must also:	5
Allegations against Service Personnel	6
Documentation	6
Documenting a <i>suspicion</i> of harm	6
Documenting a <i>disclosure</i> of harm	6
Notifications of harm	7
Confidentiality	7
Safeguards for Reporters	7
Procedures for Managing Child Protection Breaches	7
Definition	7
Processes to manage a breach of the child protection legislation	8
Suitable outcomes for breaches	8
Risk Management for High Risk Activity	8
Information for Families - Our Child Protection Philosophy	8
Educating Children about Protective Behaviour	9
Sources	9
Appendix A – Educator Recruitment Procedures	10
Appendix B – Recognising Indicators of Abuse	12
Appendix C – Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activity	15

NOTIFICATIONS OF ABUSE



WHEN A MANDATED REPORTER OR ANOTHER PERSON HAS
REASONABLE SUSPICION A CHILD IS AT RISK OF ABUSE THEY NEED TO CONTACT
THE CHILD ABUSE REPORT LINE ON

131 478



TO REPORT CRIMINAL ABUSE (SEXUAL ASSAULT) CONTACT SPECIAL CRIMES INVESTIGATION BRANCH (SAPOL) ON 08 8172 5555



When children are in immediate danger of abuse contact the **Police on 000**

CONSULT OUR CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Quality Standard

QA2	2.2.3	Child Protection – Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and			
		responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.			

National Regulations

Regs	84	Awareness of child protection law

All educators and staff at our service take seriously their responsibility to protect children from any type of abuse, and are aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding child protection. While we understand there are legislative obligations we must follow, we also believe it is our responsibility as educators to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, and to provide the children at our service with the opportunity to develop to their full potential free from any form of harm and abuse. We will ensure the safety of children is paramount and the service will always act quickly in the best interests of a child.

Related Documentation

Incident Injury Trauma and Illness Record Staff Records Risk Management Plans

Implementation

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff members and volunteers will implement this Child Protection Policy to ensure the health, wellbeing and safety of all children at the service.

Child Protection

1. Code of Conduct

The service upholds a staff Code of Conduct to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children Recruitment, Selection and Training Procedures include child protection principles.

The Approved Provider has a robust recruitment policies and procedures in place to ensure all people working at the service do not pose a risk to children and understand how to respond to disclosures or suspicions of harm and abuse through policies and procedures and professional development opportunities.

- 2. Procedures for Reporting and Documenting Abuse or Neglect
- 3. Procedures for Managing Breaches
- 4. Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activity
- 5. Information for Families

Procedures for Reporting and Documenting Abuse or Neglect

What is abuse and neglect?

Under the Children's Protection Act 1993 abuse and neglect means:

- Sexual abuse of the child; or
- Physical or emotional abuse of the child, or neglect of the child, to the extent that:
- The child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, physical or psychological injury detrimental to the child's wellbeing; or
- The child's physical or psychological development is in jeopardy.

A child is at risk of abuse and neglect if:

- There is a significant risk that the child will suffer serious harm to their physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing
- The child has been, or is being, abused or neglected
- The child lives with a person who has threatened to kill or injure them and there is a reasonable likelihood of the threat being carried out, or the person has killed, abused or neglected some other child and there is a reasonable likelihood they will do this again
- The child's guardians are unable to care for and protect them, or are unable to exercise adequate supervision and control over the child
- The child should be at school but has been persistently absent without satisfactory explanation
- The child is under 15 years has no fixed address.

In addition, under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, safety is paramount, and to this end children must be protected from harm. The other needs of children to be considered are the need:

- To be heard and have their views considered;
- For love and attachment:
- For self-esteem;
- To achieve full potential.

Under the Act educators, staff members and volunteers are mandated notifiers and must report abuse and neglect if they have a reasonable belief (objective basis) that a child is currently being abused or neglected, is at risk of being so, or has been harmed based on:

- First hand observation of the child or family
- What the child, parent or other person has disclosed
- What can reasonably be inferred based on observation, professional training and/or experience and historical knowledge.

The reporter is not required to prove that abuse has occurred.

Responsibilities

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff members and volunteers must:

- Be able to recognise indicators of abuse (see Appendix B).
- Take anything a child says seriously and follow up their concerns.
 - Allow children to be part of decision-making processes where appropriate. Understand they must report to The Child Abuse Report Line on 131 478 (available 24 hours / 7 days a week) if they believe on reasonable grounds a child has, is or is likely to suffer abuse and neglect. Educators, staff members and volunteers should make the report with the assistance or support of the Nominated Supervisor and school's leadership team. Some matters can now be reported on-line. Refer https://my.families.sa.gov.au/and https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/report-child-abuse-or-neglect. Under the legislation a report must be accompanied by a statement of the observations, information and opinions on which the suspicion is based. To report online, you must set up an account with the Department of Child Protection.
- Contact the Police on 000 if there is an immediate danger to a child and intervene immediately if it is safe to do so.
- Connect families with referral agencies where concerns of abuse or neglect do not require reports to The Department of Child Protection. Under the legislation, a person does not necessarily exhaust their duty of care to a child by notifying The Department of Child Protection. A mandated notifier should consider how they can continue to respond to the needs of the child and their family. There are also other support services available for children, young people and families that may be able to help. Supporting a family where children are at risk is also important. A list of agencies that can help families is available on the Department of Education and Child Development's website at:
- https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/child-protection-initiatives/support-services-children-young-people-and-families . Family consent will be sought before making referrals.
- Promote the welfare, safety and wellbeing of children at the service.
- Prepare accurate records to assist investigations of abuse or suspected abuse by the Department of Child Protection or the Police and for dealings with referral agencies. Accurate records will reflect exactly what happened, what was thought to have happened or potentially could happen.
- Understand that allegations of harm against them are treated in the same way as allegations of harm against other people (see "Allegations against Service Personnel").

The Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor must also:

- Ensure that all employees and volunteers are:
 - Understand their roles and responsibilities regarding child protection.
 - Aware of their obligations to immediately report cases where they believe on reasonable grounds a child has or is experiencing abuse and neglect including sexual abuse.
 - Aware of the indicators that a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Provide training and development for all educators, staff and volunteers in the recognition and reporting of harm.

- Provide reporting procedures and professional standards to safeguard children and protect the integrity of educators, staff and volunteers.
- Conduct a Working With Children Check (police clearance) for all educators, staff and volunteers
 unless the person meets the criteria for exemption from a WWCC (police clearance). Further
 information is available at https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/rights-and-law/rights-andresponsibilities/screening-checks
- Provide access to relevant acts, regulations, standards and other resources to help educators, staff and volunteers meet their obligations.
- Ensure records of harm or suspected harm are kept in line with our Privacy Policy.
- Ensure all staff are aware of the Excursion Policy including risk assessment and planning process contained within that Policy.

Allegations against Service Personnel

Allegations of abuse or suspected abuse against educators, staff members, volunteers, the Nominated Supervisor or Approved Provider are treated in the same way as allegations against other people. Reports will be made to Department for Child Protection where a child is suspected of being, or is being harmed by a person at the Service. Educators will make the report with the assistance or support of the Nominated Supervisor. If the Supervisor is involved in the harm then the Approved Provider or most senior educator will assist in notifying Department of Child Protection.

The Nominated Supervisor or Approved Provider:

- Will complete an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record (Appendix A in the College's Incident, Injury, Trauma, Illness and First Aid Policy and will notify the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of making the report to Department for Child Protection.
- Will provide appropriate support for any educator or staff member who has an allegation made against them
- Will protect the identity of educators / staff members against whom unsubstantiated complaints have been made.
- Will review the person's duties, and if they continue to interact with children, ensure they are appropriately supervised at all times.
- May seek legal advice about restricting that person's work activities.

Documentation

Documenting a suspicion of harm

If educators have concerns about the safety of a child they will:

- Record their concerns in a non-judgmental and accurate manner as soon as possible.
- Record their own observations as well as accurate details of any conversation with a parent (who may for example explain a noticeable mark on a child).
- Not attempt to conduct their own investigation.
- Document (as soon as possible so the details are accurately captured) including:
 - Time, date and place of the suspicion
 - Full details of the suspected abuse
 - Date of report and signature.

Documenting a disclosure of harm

A disclosure of harm occurs when someone, including a child, tells you about harm that has happened or is likely to happen. Disclosures of harm may start with:

- —I think I saw...
- —Somebody told me that...
- —Just think you should know...
- —I'm not sure what I want you to do, but...

When receiving a disclosure of harm educators, staff members, the Nominated Supervisor or Approved Provider will:

- Remain calm and find a private place to talk
- Not promise to keep a secret
- Tell the child/person they have done the right thing in revealing the information but that they'll need to tell someone who can help keep the child safe
- Only ask enough questions to confirm the need to report the matter because probing questions could cause distress, confusion and interfere with any later enquiries
- Not attempt to conduct their own investigation or mediate an outcome between the parties involved.
- Document (as soon as possible so the details are accurately captured) including:
 - Time, date and place of the disclosure
 - 'Word for word' what happened and what was said, including anything they said and any actions that have been taken
 - Date of report and signature.

Notifications of harm

The person making a notification of abuse or suspected abuse will make a record of the answers to the following:

- Name of person they spoke to.
- What the next step in the process is.
- What advice will be sent to confirm the report has been made.
- If there is any further action they need to take.

Confidentiality

It is important that any notification remains confidential, as it is vitally important to remember that no confirmation of any allegation can be made until the matter is investigated. The individual who makes the complaint should not inform the person who they have made the complaint about. This ensures the matter can be investigated without prior knowledge and contamination of evidence.

Safeguards for Reporters

Reports made to the South Australia Department for Child Protection or the Police are kept confidential. Under the *Children's Protection Act 1993* if the report is made in good faith:

- The report will not breach confidence or standards of professional conduct
- the report can't incur civil or criminal liability
- the identity of the person making the report is protected. (However, the Court may grant leave to reveal the person's identity if the evidence is critically important and that failure to admit it would prejudice the proper administration of justice.)

A report is also an exempt document under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.

Procedures for Managing Child Protection Breaches

This plan outlines the steps to be taken following a child protection breach in order to address the breach in a fair and supportive manner.

Definition

All educators and staff working with children have a duty of care to support and protect children. A duty of care is breached if a person:

- Does something that a reasonable person in that person's position would not do in a particular situation.
- Fails to do something that a reasonable person in that person's position would do in the circumstances
- Acts or fails to act in a way that causes harm to someone the person owes a duty of care to.

A breach is also any action or inaction by any member of the service, including children and young people, that fails to comply with any part of the strategy including any breach of:

- A statement of commitment to the safety of children and their protection from harm
- A code of conduct for interacting with children

- Procedures for recruiting, selecting, training and managing paid employees and volunteers
- Policies and procedures for handling disclosures or suspicions of harm, including reporting guidelines
- Risk management plans for high risk activities and special events (see Excursion Policy).
- Strategies for communication and support.

Processes to manage a breach of the child protection legislation

The Nominated Supervisor or Approved Provider will manage breaches in a fair, unbiased and supportive manner, and will ensure:

- All people concerned are advised of the process
- All people concerned are able to provide their version of events
- The details of the breach, including the versions of all parties and the outcome are recorded
- Matters discussed in relation to the breach are kept confidential
- An appropriate outcome is decided upon.

Suitable outcomes for breaches

Depending on the nature of the breach, outcomes may include:

- Emphasising the relevant component of the College's child protection procedures, for example, the Code of Conduct
- Providing closer supervision
- Arranging further education and training
- Mediating between those involved in the incident (where appropriate)
- Following disciplinary procedures if necessary
- Reviewing current policies and procedures and developing new policies and procedures if necessary.

Risk Management for High Risk Activity

In addition to the Child Protection Policy and Excursion Policy & Procedures, a risk management plan is to be completed for any high risk activities. This plan must be completed to analyse the "risk of harm" to children. See Appendix C for a Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activities.

Information for Families - Our Child Protection Philosophy

Creating safe and supportive environments for children is everyone's business. Our service is committed to ensuring children are kept safe from harm. We will initiate and maintain ongoing planning and commitment to a safe and supportive environment so children:

- Feel safe and protected from harm
- Help plan activities and make decisions
- Are consulted and respected
- Have their best interests considered and upheld.

We have Policies and Procedures in place to protect the children in our service from harm, and to ensure we have a safe and supportive environment for children by identifying and minimising risks.

The child protection strategies we utilise consist of:

- A code of conduct.
- Procedures for recruiting, selecting, training and managing paid employees and volunteers, including screening procedures through working with children checks.
- Procedures for handling disclosures or suspicions of harm, including reporting guidelines
- Procedures for managing breaches of the strategy
- Risk management plans for high-risk activities and special events (including Excursion Policy)
- Strategies for communication and support.

As a parent/carer it is important for you to understand our Child Protection policies and procedures.

Educating Children about Protective Behaviour

Our service aims to teach children:

- About acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and appropriate and inappropriate contact in a manner suitable to their age and level of understanding
- That they have a right to feel safe at all times.
- To say 'no' to anything that makes them feel unsafe
- The difference between 'fun' scared that is appropriate risk taking and dangerous scared that is not ok.
- To use their own skills to feel safe.
- To recognise signs that they do not feel safe and need to be alert and think clearly.
- That there is no secret too awful, no story too terrible, that they can't share with someone they trust.
- That educators are available for them if they have any concerns.
- To tell educators of any suspicious activities or people.
- To recognise and express their feelings verbally and non-verbally.
- That they can choose to change the way they are feeling.

Beliefs

Our service believes that:

- Children are capable of the same range of emotions as adults.
- Children's emotions are real and need to be accepted by adults.
- A response given to a child from an adult in a child's early stages of emotional development can be hugely positive or detrimental, depending on the adult's reaction.
- Children are very in touch with their bodies' reactions to their emotions.
- Children who retain, enhance and better understand their body's response to an emotion are more able to foresee the outcome of a situation and avoid them or ask for help.

Sources

Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (July 2005) "Creating safe environments for children: Organisations, employees and volunteers" National framework.

Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (2005). Schedule: Guidelines for building the capacity of child-safe organisations. *Creating safe environments for children: Organisations, employees and volunteers: National framework.*

Children's Protection Act 1993

Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017

Department for Education and Child Development Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Early Years Learning Framework

Guidelines for mandated notifiers and information for organisations (Government of South Australia, Department for Education and Child Development

Latest Review: [April 2022]

Approved by: [Executive Principal]
Next review: [December 2023]

Appendix A – Educator Recruitment Procedures

Educator Recruitment Procedures						
Name:	Date:					
Service Name: Australian Islamic College Adelaide						

Recruitment Process

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will oversee and approve the recruitment process by:

- Ensuring there is a documented position description for the vacant position that is accurate and current.
- Arranging for the position to be advertised.
- Ensuring there is a standard list of interview questions for all applicants.
- Reviewing the applications that have been received and shortlisting applicants based on selection criteria.
- Arranging suitable interview times with the shortlisted applicants.
- Conducting interviews by a panel (such panel to include the Executive Principal where applicable).
- Conducting referee checks of the most suitable candidate.
- Making an offer of employment in writing (containing the specific terms and conditions of employment)
 which the applicant must sign as an acceptance of the offer.
- Arranging induction of the new employee to the College including completion of necessary paperwork, including sighting original identification and qualifications (*Induction Checklist for Teaching Staff* is attached as Appendix A as a sample of the College's induction checklists).
- Notifying unsuccessful applicants by letter, telephone or email.
- Recruitment and selection decisions will be made by the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor.

Job Description

Every position must have a position description which:

- Summarises the job and describes the tasks to be performed.
- Details the skills, qualifications and experience required to perform the job and whether these are essential or desirable criteria.
- Clearly describes the expectations for educators/staff members to provide a safe and supportive environment for children.

Advertising

- Positions may, at the discretion of the College and where relevant, be initially advertised internally via email in the first instance. This process allows current employees the opportunity to be considered for a transfer or to nominate a suitable contact as a potential candidate.
- External advertising will occur when a suitable internal candidate (including employee contact) is unavailable, or may occur concurrently with the internal advertising where the College believes it is in the College's best interests to source additional candidates.

The Job Advertisement

The job advertisement will be written in clear, concise and non-discriminatory language and will contain:

- The title of the position
- A summary of the role and conditions of employment
- The essential and desirable criteria for candidates
- Information about what applicants should provide with their applications
- Clear, concise details about our College and our safe, supportive work practices
- Advice that the successful applicant will need to undergo a successful Working With Children Check
- The email address of a contact person
- The closing date for receipt of applications
- A statement that the College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interviews

The Direct Supervisor will conduct the interviews along with a panel of suitable senior staff . The format of the interview will be to:

- Advise the applicant about the position and the College
- Discuss the applicant's skills and experience as they relate to the position
- Answer any questions the applicant may have
- Advise the applicant of the next steps in the selection process
- Obtain permission to contact the applicant's nominated referees.

Screening and References

If progressing with a candidate, due diligence will be completed prior to offer. SCREENING:

- All applicants must provide original identification and other original documentation to confirm their qualifications and experience as required by the College;
- All applicants must demonstrate the right to work in Australia;
- All teachers must be registered or provisionally registered with the relevant Teacher Registration Board of the applicable State. Or, additionally, in the case of South Australia, have received Special Authority to Teach from the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia (pursuant to Part 6 of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004, Section 30(1);
- All non-teaching members of staff (including Board members) must undergo a Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening;
- As deemed appropriate by the College, paid or unpaid employees who work with students but are not required to hold a Working with Children Check (e.g. a parent volunteer) may be required to consent to a criminal history check (Police check).

References

At least two verbal reference checks are mandatory for any role at the College. In addition:

- One of the referees should include the candidate's most recent direct supervisor; and
- One of the referees should include the candidate's most recent Principal (where applicable).

Priority should be given to reports of referees who can comment on the candidate's most recent child related employment or other activities. Referees will be questioned regarding the candidate's attitude and behaviour toward children in their previous role/s.

If reference checks cannot be undertaken until the preferred candidate has resigned from their current position, the offer will be made subject to the receipt of two satisfactory references that meet the requirements detailed above.

The College reserves the right to contact any persons who may have relevant knowledge of the candidate's qualifications and experience, whether or not such persons are nominated as referees by the candidate.

Selection of Candidates and Offer of Employment

Following the interviews, the College will check the work histories and references of the most suitable candidates(s) after obtaining their permission. If a decision is made to employ the most suitable candidate, we will make a written offer of employment. The successful applicant must sign a contract of employment containing the specific terms and conditions of their employment.

Exit Interviews

If an employee resigns, management will undertake an exit interview with the person to:

- Gather information about the effectiveness of the recruitment process.
- Identify possible areas for improvement in organisational processes, management, job design, remuneration or career planning and development.
- Receive positive feedback on what is working well.

Appendix B – Recognising Indicators of Abuse

Indicators of Harm (Abuse or Neglect)

There are many indicators of harm (abuse or neglect) to children. Behavioural or physical signs which assist in recognising harm to children are known as indicators. The following information should be used as a guide only. One indicator on its own may not imply abuse or neglect. However a single indicator can be as important as the presence of several indicators. Each indicator needs to be considered in the context of other indicators and the child's circumstances. A child's behaviour is likely to be affected if he/she is under stress. There can be many causes of stress and it is important to find out specifically what is causing the stress. Abuse and neglect can be single incidents or ongoing, and may be intentional or unintentional.

Child abuse can happen to any child in any family. The abuse may be:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglectful

The following lists should be used as a guide only to help determine if your suspicions of abuse are well-founded, and should be <u>reported to the child abuse report line</u>.

Keep a record of any observation. Information recorded from the checklist greatly enhances the quality of any subsequent reports to the child abuse report line.

Sexual abuse

The following indicators may indicate sexual abuse:

- Genital injuries
- Bite marks
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Persistent soiling or bed wetting
- Sleep disturbance
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour based on the child's age
- Promiscuous affection seeking behaviour
- Excessive masturbation which does not respond to boundaries or discipline
- Obsessive and compulsive washing
- Wary of physical contact with others
- Unusually fearful of having their nappy changed
- They describe sexual acts
- Direct or indirect disclosures
- Self-destructive behaviour
- Regression in development achievements
- Child being in contact with a suspected or know perpetrator of sexual assault

Staff should also refer to "responding to problem sexual behaviour" for more information, via the below link: https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net691/f/responding_to_problem_sexual_behaviour_in_children and young_people.pdf?v=1455240257

Physical abuse

The following indicators may indicate physical abuse:

- Bruises in unlikely places (face, back, ears, hands, buttocks, upper thighs and soft parts of the body) or that may show the shape of an object
- Inconsistent or absent explanation of bruises
- Any bruising on a baby
- Pressure marks from fingers on the face, chest or back
- Weal, ligature, lacerations, welts or bite marks, scratches

- Skull fracture, subdural bleeding, multiple fractures of different ages
- Suspicious burns and scalds
- Poisoning or significant over medicating.
- Explanations are not consistent with injury
- Multiple injuries or bruises
- Ingestion of poisonous substances, alcohol or drugs
- Sprains, twists, dislocations
- Bone fractures

Emotional abuse

The following indicators may indicate emotional abuse:

- Avoiding home (particularly if the abuser is in the family home)
- Running away or continually staying at friend's houses
- Fear of the dark, not wanting to go to bed, bedwetting or nightmares
- Lying or stealing
- Lack of trust in adults
- Poor self-image/self-esteem, poor academic performance, poor peer relationships
- Secretive, demanding or disruptive behaviour.
- Feeling of worthlessness about them
- Inability to value others
- Extreme attention seeking behaviours
- Other behavioural disorders (disruptiveness, aggressiveness, bullying)
- Clingy with certain people
- Depression, self-mutilation

Neglect

The following indicators may indicate neglect:

- Failure to thrive
- Developmental delay
- Prone to illness
- Sallow or sickly appearance
- Abnormally high appetite, scavenging, stealing or hoarding food
- Smelly or dirty appearance
- Untreated medical conditions.
- Poor standard of hygiene leading to social isolation
- Extreme longing for adult affection
- Lacking a sense of genuine interaction with others
- Acute separation anxiety
- Self comforting behaviours, e.g. rocking, sucking
- Unsuitable or inadequate clothing
- Often left unsupervised

Domestic Violence

The following indicators may indicate exposure to Domestic Violence:

- Show aggressive behaviour
- Develop phobias & insomnia
- Experience anxiety
- Show systems of depression
- Have diminished self-esteem
- Demonstrate poor academic performance and problem solving skills
- Have reduced social competence skills including low levels of empathy
- Show emotional distress
- Have physical complaints
- Acute stress disorder
- Mood disorders

- Anxiety and depression
- Increased rates of violence in their own relationships
- Impact on development and reading age

Other general indicators of possible abuse and neglect

- Marked delay between injury and seeking medical assistance
- History of injury
- The child gives some indication that the injury did not occur as stated
- The child tells you someone has hurt him/her
- The child tells you about someone he/she knows who has been hurt
- Someone (relative, friend, acquaintance, sibling) tells you that the child may have been abused

Indicators of Neglect in parents and caregivers

- Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical attention, hygiene or leaving the child inappropriately without supervision
- Inability to respond emotionally to the child
- Child abandonment
- Depriving or withholding physical contact
- Failure to provide psychological nurturing
- Treating one child differently to the others

Indicators of Physical Abuse in parents and caregivers

- Direct admissions from parents about fear of hurting their children
- Family history of violence
- History of their own maltreatment as a child
- Repeated visits for medical assistance

Indicators of Emotional Abuse in parents and caregivers

- Constant criticism, belittling, teasing of a child or ignoring or withholding praise and affection
- Excessive or unreasonable demands
- Persistent hostility, severe verbal abuse, rejection and scape-goating
- Belief that a particular child is bad or "evil"
- Using inappropriate physical or social isolation as punishment
- Exposure to domestic violence

Indicators of Sexual Abuse in parents, caregivers of anyone else associated with the child

- Exposing the child to sexual behaviours of others
- Suspected of or charged with child sexual abuse
- Inappropriate jealousy regarding age appropriate development of independence from the family
- Coercing the child to engage in sexual behaviour with other children
- Verbal threats of sexual abuse
- Exposing the child to pornography

Appendix C – Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activity

Child Protection Risk Management Strategy – Template Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activity



In addition to occupational health and safety concerns, a child and youth risk management strategy should analyse the risk of 'harm' to children and young people.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Describe the activity Identify all elements of the event from beginning to end	Identify Risks Something that could happen that results in harm to a child or young person	Analyse the Risk (Likelihood/ Consequences)	Evaluate the Risk The level of risk	Manage the Risk Assess the options	Review Nominate who will review after the event/activity