



Child Safe Environment Policy

"We all have the right to be safe"

"We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust"

The Happy Valley Kindergarten Child Safe Environment policy is based on the principle that protecting the safety of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility that can not be compromised by other considerations. Children have a fundamental right to be protected and keep safe while they are in our care. Children who are unsafe are at risk of having their physical health and wellbeing negatively impacted on which, in turn, can negatively affect children's experiences, learning and wellbeing in the present and throughout their future lives. Preventing and intervening in the abuse and neglect of children and young people is a moral and legal obligation, a contribution to breaking cycles of intergenerational abuse, and a contribution to the safety and wellbeing of everyone participating in DECD sites/services and of the wider community.

Children and young people have a right to:

- Be treated with respect and to be protected from harm
- Feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people
- Understand, as early as possible, what is meant by 'feeling and being safe'
- The support of adults in the kindergarten whose role is includes advocacy for their safety and wellbeing

At Happy Valley Kindergarten, we will ensure that we:

- Provide safe, respectful and engaging environments where children and young people observe and are taught positive life skills and values
- Recognise when children and young people's wellbeing or safety is being compromised and follow up on such concern
- Understand that the needs of children and young people who have been harmed through violence, abuse or neglect may require us to adapt our programs and support accordingly



At Happy Valley Kindergarten, we will do this by:

- Ensuring that staff, volunteers, and non-teaching staff obtain a police check prior to commencing at the site and have an approved current criminal history clearance
- New staff and volunteers will receive and record an induction process to children protection policy at the site
- Staff will participate in 3 yearly Responding to Abuse and Neglect training
- Concerns raised about staff or volunteer conduct are responded to in accordance with approved protective practice guidelines
- Children will access the approved Child Protection Curriculum which will be implemented by trained staff

**ANY CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS MUST BE ADDRESSED WITH THE
DIRECTOR**