



12.10.2015

Child Protection Policy

Rationale:

All persons who spend time at Aroha Early Learning Centre are to be made aware of this policy. Issues of emotional, physical and sexual abuse are a National responsibility and so all adults working with and alongside children are to know their responsibility towards protecting our most vulnerable.

Policy Statement:

There is a particular responsibility of Management and Leadership of Aroha Early Learning Centre to take steps to ensure those who put children at risk can be identified and excluded from being in the Centre environment or placed with children who attend the Centre.

Under Part 3 of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014, safety checks will be part of the Employment process for Core Child Workers as well as Students, Volunteer and Family attendants.

Practice:

Teaching staff will operate within the 'Code of Ethics'; this sets the high standard for professionals in the Education sector,

Employment will be stringent and include necessary checks, to ensure those who have respect and desire for best outcomes for all children and their families, are employed. Contracts include a clause

**11.3 Registered Teachers**

**Mandatory reporting to Teachers Council according to the Education Act 1989**

The Employer is authorized by the Teacher Council Board to meet all other obligations according to the Education Act 1989. According to 139 AK-AN of the Act any Registered Teacher who has seriously breached the Teacher Code of Ethics and/or seriously breached code of good faith in aspects of the employment relationship will have this brought to the notification of the Teacher Council Board.

**11.4 Registered Teachers**

The Employee who is a registered teacher must comply with the requirement of maintaining their status of registration; police vetting will be followed up by the Teacher Council at these 3 yearly registration renewals.

Other Core Working Staff and Volunteers, who participate in the Early Learning Centre, will have checks made to ensure they meet criteria maintaining safety of the children attending. These checks include: police vetting and documentation check, with photograph to ascertain their identity.

Parents who participate in the Early Learning Centre programme will be accompanied at all times by approved vetted teaching staff; if vehicles are driven by a family member of children, driver licenses will be verified as up to date and authentic; car warrant & registration, along with correct child safety restraints,

will be overseen & approved by Centre Teachers responsible for the excursion and will be included in the specific excursion RAMs form.

Child pickup from the Early Learning Centre will follow approved procedure of persons responsible nominated on enrollment form signed by enrolling family member/guardian.

Teaching staff will monitor permission given by enrolling family/guardian by use of relevant information documented in agreed, private place.

A complaints procedure is positioned in the foyer for referral by parents/guardians/whānau and general public. Reference to this is made on enrolment. This ensures the accountability of Centre Management and staff in all aspects of the Centre programme.

The Centre Child Abuse policy outlines the responsibility and actions taken in suspected abuse; this includes the referral process to follow, and the planned managed training of Centre teaching staff in this sensitive, responsive Child Protection Action according to the Vulnerable Child's Act 2014.

Student and relieving staff have a set of standards expected within the learning Centre to abide by. Refer to the Centre relieving Folder. Induction process includes the referral to the Centre Routine and Relieving folders, alongside the Policy and Procedure folder.

**Aim:**

The Early Childhood Curriculum, Te Whāriki plays an important role in keeping children safe, the strand well-being –Mana Atua, is based on the principles of: Empowerment, Holistic Development, Family and Community and Relationships. These are so children remain in a “stable, safe environment”, “promoting well-being through consistent, warm relationships” recognizing family and community “contributing significantly to children’s well-being” and building relationships of “trust”.

As stated in the Centre Philosophy Statement, the Principles of Te Whāriki are embodied into the Centre Programme and it’s Practice, ensuring safe protection of each individual child.

**Consultation:**

Next Review date- ...10.08.16 Monitoring- in teacher training and feedback from family and community.

- Consultation: How? *Written, discussion & communication.*
- When? February 2016 *WHO-Teaching staff families/whānau/CYFs and related community support networking.*