



# Child Protection Policy

**Rationale:** For teachers to be aware of the different types of abuse and the appropriate steps to prevent, recognise and protect children from abuse.

**Objective:** To ensure the safety of our children and to inform parents and caregivers of the different types of abuse and their symptoms. It is also our policy that the welfare and interests of the child be the first and paramount consideration in any situation where a child appears to be at risk or harm.

**Procedure:**

- We will maintain high teacher/child ratios.
- Our playground and indoor play areas are designed with the maximum amount of 'open' spaces available.
- Parents are encouraged to visit at any time during the day. Parents settling children into the centre are encouraged to witness and take part in our programme until such time as they feel secure enough to leave.
- Only adults named on the enrolment form are able to collect children from the centre.
- Permission from parents is required for their child(ren) to participate in centre outings.
- A complaints procedure ensures issues of concern are dealt with appropriately. Parents are encouraged to express their feelings and concerns in order that the operation of the centre can be constantly improved.
- We realise and accept our own limitations in dealing with issues of abuse. Professional agencies such as the Police and the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Service will be involved in suspected cases of abuse. These agencies are sought for their specialised knowledge.
- Visiting students are not allowed to change or toilet any child unsupervised and are not to be left alone with any child or group of children.
- Parents will be notified of the presence of any student or reliever via the day book.
- Written documentation is kept on any issues of concern teachers may note about a child. Full, relevant, contextual factors are recorded in our confidential 'concern book.'

- **The following measures will be taken by all teachers regarding suspected abuse:**
- All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously.
- No teacher will act alone regarding suspected child abuse. The centre Manager will be consulted and she/he will take further action.
- Any person disclosing information in good faith regarding suspected abuse will be assured the protection afforded by law.
- If the centre Manager suspects a child is unsafe, she/he will report it to the Police or Department of Social Welfare.
- If there are any allegations of abuse by an employee, the authorities will be informed immediately and the employee will be suspended while the matter is investigated.
- We will offer support to all those involved in any abuse allegations.

Date reviewed: 9/6/2010

Date approved: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_