

This policy describes the scope and obligations that must be met to maintain child safe environments in Wild Imagination nature play events.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the roles and responsibilities of all employees, play leaders, volunteers in establishing and maintaining child safe environments at all times.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working for Wild Imagination.

## POLICY DETAIL

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility that cannot be compromised.

Children and young people have a right to:

- Be treated with respect and protected from harm.
- Be asked to express their views and wants about matters that affect them and to have those views appropriately considered by adults.
- Feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children.

### *Obligations and training and support*

Wild Imagination Play Leaders must meet the following obligations in order to maintain child safe environments.

- Suitability must be established at the time of recruitment and monitored continuously.
- Continuous monitoring and suitability includes the responsibility of all adults to report inappropriate conduct towards children by anyone engaged in the event.
- All Play Leaders to have completed responding to Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care training, or equivalent as determined appropriate.
- All Play Leaders will receive induction and will have support and supervision appropriate to the critical nature of their work.
- All Play Leaders require a child-related employment screening clearance by the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI clearance).
- All other employees, such as administration and operational staff, and contractors will be screened by the Director of Wild Imagination, and if required training and clearances will be sought.

### *Adult conduct*

Staff and volunteers will relate respectfully and protectively with children. Staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report and intervene against behaviours that compromise the safety and wellbeing of young children.

- Staff and volunteers will follow appropriate protective practice guidelines in all their physical and social interactions with children.
- Staff and volunteers will report and document concerns raised about inappropriate adult conduct towards children to the Director of Wild Imagination.
- Serious allegations of sexual misconduct against staff or volunteers will be referred to the Director of Wild Imagination and the SA Police and action taken.



# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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## *Communication and record keeping*

Parents and carers will be appropriately informed about allegations of sexual misconduct.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director:

- Ensure the screening of all staff and volunteers working on the site.
- All staff and volunteers receive appropriate child protection induction.
- Concerns raised about staff or volunteer conduct are responded to in an appropriate manner.
- Conduct and practice at the site is monitored to ensure it meets the obligations outlined in the policy.
- Address performance issues as they relate to meeting the requirements of this policy.

Play leaders, volunteers, employees, contractors:

- Act in accordance with the obligations outlined in the policy.
- Raise concerns when barriers or threats to the protection of children's safety and wellbeing are identified, including through the conduct of other adults at the event.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed annually or whenever needed.

## **SOURCE**

Child protection in schools, early childhood education and care policy DECD 2015

*Reviewed November 2016*

