

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

The *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)* states that the welfare of the child is paramount. Every child has a right:

- To be treated as an individual,
- To have a positive sense of identity and
- To be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- To express their views and
- To be listened to about issues or decisions affecting or worrying them according to their age maturity and understanding.

Every effort should be made:

- To preserve the child's family home and contacts, as parents are normally responsible for the upbringing and care of their children.

Any intervention in the life of a child or a family should be on formally stated grounds, properly justified and include the provision of supportive services based on collaboration between all relevant agencies.

AIM

The aim of Cleddens Early Learning & Childcare Centre is:

- To assist all early years staff to work in a multidisciplinary context with children and their families.
- To be responsible for the protection of all children from abuse and exploitation.
- To respond appropriately when abuse is identified.
- To ensure staff have annual child protection training updates.
- Child protection to be part of staff and student induction.

To ensure whenever possible that all children are able to exercise their right to be raised in a warm, stimulating and safe environment with the support of staff, their families and carers.

OUTCOMES

- Pro-active and re-active responses are be made to protect children at risk of abuse.
- All relevant agencies in child protection collaboration and co-operation with each other.
- An ethos promoting the welfare of all children is developed with regard to a child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.
- Learning opportunities are developed which promote children's good health and safety in all aspects of their lives.
- Skills are developed to assist children reduce their vulnerability to abuse?
- Staff work in partnership with parents unless concerns about a child's safety indicate this is not in the child's best interest.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Head of Centre

- Is the key member of staff with responsibility for all child protection issues . Child Protection Co-ordinator – Leona Stewart Head. Depute – Michelle Baxter. As in EDC Child Protection Policy & Procedures (Jan 2015)

Staff

- Immediately report your concerns to the Head of Centre.
- Follow the guidance given by the Head of Centre.

RESOURCES

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
EDC Child Protection Policy and Procedures (Jan 2015)

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CROSS-REFERENCES:

How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare	2.1
National Care Standards	3.2

In our centre responsibility for implementing this policy is:	Staff
First Draft	November 2004
The policy was reviewed on:	Reviewed and updated Jan 2008, Jan 2011, April 2014, Feb 2015. Feb 2018
Due for review on (not more than 3 years):	February 2021