

Agapé Christian Preschool

Child Abuse Policy

Rationale/Purpose

To ensure the safety and well being of children is paramount.

To provide staff and others working with the children the information so that they can identify signs of abuse.

To provide procedures for dealing with cases of abuse.

To ensure help is sought from the appropriate agencies.

All children are treated with dignity and respect and have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment.

Statement/Objective

The education and awareness of staff and children will result in our children feeling they are secure and safe in our centre environment.

Parents and staff will be aware of the procedures that the Centre will take to protect children from any kind of abuse.

Staff will have firm guidelines to follow for any cases of suspected abuse. (Refer to flow chart)

Broad Guidelines:

- Adults need to be receptive and sensitive to children so that the children feel listened to and believed.
- At all stages, confidentiality and objectivity must be maintained, in particular as it refers to Privacy of Information legislation.
- The two people with the clearly established responsibility for co-ordinating actions of abuse are the Licensee and Principal Teacher.
- Staff should feel confident that their actions are not open to defamation proceedings as long as the correct procedures have been followed.
- In case of a report from a third party, the Centre will direct the third party to an appropriate agency.
- Staff will ensure that preventative programmes will be taught aimed at **“Keeping ourselves safe”**
- Parents will be informed, except where the child's welfare is likely to be threatened. Whichever agency is involved in the case will be responsible for informing parents.
- In a case where a staff member is implicated the Licensee and or Principal Teacher will be informed.
- Refer to action chart.

Lines of Responsibility:

Licensee and staff

Links to Other Documentation:

DOP's 7

Te Whaariki, Well-being - Goal 3

Date: 11 July 2007

Signed:

Review Date: May 2008

Responsibility for Review: Principal Teacher

Action Chart

Child makes a disclosure to a staff member / Staff member has a suspicion of abuse.

Report from a third party.

Staff member should listen carefully without challenging and seek to reassure that future help will be sought.

As for Policy refer third party to appropriate agency.

Staff member should document disclosure and/or reasons for suspicion. Include relevant dates/times/appearance/behaviour etc. Reports to be kept secure.

Advise Licensee and Principal Teacher

The Licensee will report to the appropriate agency e.g. Child, Youth and Family, Police, Public Health Nurse or Plunket.

Keeping in mind the children's welfare is paramount, caregivers may be consulted about changes in behaviour to try and ascertain reason(s) e.g. Change in home circumstances, by Principal Teacher.

Children's caregiver should be informed by the appropriate agency without undue delay, unless considered prejudicial to the particular case and on mind that the child's safety is paramount.

The Centre will act on advice from such agencies and co-operate with them as appropriate.

In the event that allegation is made against a staff member, that person should be advised to seek appropriate legal advice.