



## Child Safety and Wellbeing – Policy

### Purpose

This policy outlines the principles and goals of SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre Inc in respect to ensuring that every child is safe and respected at SpringDale.

### Child Safety Statement

The SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre Coordinator, Committee, Staff, Volunteers, Group Leaders and Tutors have a duty of Care to all children, who visit the centre, to take measures to ensure the safety and prevent harm from occurring and are legally responsible for review of the Child Safety Policy and practises every 2 years.

SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre recognises the specific needs of children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and has zero-tolerance approach to racism, sexism and other prejudice.

SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre has policies and procedures embedded within the centre ensuring staff, people attending the centre, volunteers understand and acknowledge the value and strength of all indigenous culture and values.

SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre has zero-tolerance for child abuse and racism, has systems in place to protect all children and young people and will take all allegations very seriously, responding to them consistently in line with SpringDale's policies and procedures. We want all children and young people to be safe, happy, supported and respected whilst in the Centre, removing and reducing these risks. Staff and volunteers are encouraged to speak up and are supported in doing so.

All Staff, Volunteers, Group Leaders and Tutors will agree to:

- Abide by our Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics and also by this our Child Safety Policy.
- Adhere to our culture of speaking up against racism and prejudice
- Report any reasonable belief that a child's safety is at risk to the Coordinator with a completed Incident Report Form.

All Staff, Volunteers, Group Leaders and Tutors working with children will provide a current Working with Children's Check.

The Coordinator will:

- Responsibly report to the relevant authorities: Police Emergency: 000 and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing: 1300 475 170
- Promote Child Safety at all times
- Ensure that the Policies, Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics are easily accessible
- Check all Staff, Volunteers, Group Leaders and Tutors working with children have a current Working with Children's Check.

## References

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-protection>

<https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/child-safe-policy>

The Child Safety Officer can be contacted by email at: [childsafes@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:childsafes@justice.vic.gov.au) or by phone on (03) 9136 3666

Child Safe Standards as made under section 17(1) of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation>

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/child-wellbeing-and-safety-act-2005/040>

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/children-youth-and-families-act-2005/121>

<https://www.acnc.gov.au>