

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

The Department for Education and Child Development has a legal responsibility to protect children and young people from abuse in its schools, preschools, child care centres and in the wider community.

All children and young people have a right to:

- » Be treated with respect and to be protected from harm.
- » Feel and be safe when they do things with adults and other children.
- » Understand as early as possible what is meant by feeling and being safe.
- » Receive the support of counsellors or a staff member in their school or preschool whose role includes safety and wellbeing.

Source: *Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services Policy (2011)*

The *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* teaches all children from a young age, in an age appropriate way, to recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it. It helps them understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and outlines ways they can keep themselves safe.

Further information

Information about the *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* is available from your child's school, preschool or teacher. Alternatively, you can contact the Child Protection Curriculum Officer on 08 8226 5887.

Under Section 82 of the *Education Act (1972)*, schools and preschools are not required to seek permission from parents and carers for their child to participate in the curriculum.

Keeping SAFE

Child Protection Curriculum

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Mama ngunytjungku nyakula kulinytjaku

- The right to be safe
- Relationships
- Recognising and reporting abuse
- Protective strategies

Anangu parent and carer information



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An overview of the curriculum

The *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* is divided into 5 documents. Each document relates to age or year level groups:

- » **Early Years: Ages 3–5**
- » **Early Years: Years R-2**
- » **Primary Years: Years 3-5**
- » **Middle Years : Years 6-9**
- » **Senior Years: Years 10-12**

The curriculum also offers teachers support documents to help them teach the information properly to students from different culture and language backgrounds or those with a disability or additional need.

Parents/carers can talk to teachers and tell them anything that might help them to teach the curriculum to their child. All teachers are required to complete professional training to deliver the curriculum.

The *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* is based on two themes:

- » We all have the right to be safe. Nanganana uwankara atunypa wankaru nyinantjaku
- » We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust. Nanganana walytjangku atunmananyi Anangu palyangka wangkara.

The themes are delivered to students through four focus areas that increase in complexity as they age:

The right to be safe

Uwankara Atunyitja Nyinanytjaku

Children learn about feelings they might have in different situations. They are taught about warning signs that help them recognise a situation where they may be at risk of harm.

Relationships

Walytjapiti malparara nyinanytja

Children think and talk about different relationships and how they can change. They are taught that some relationships are good and help a person feel good about themselves and others are not good and can harm their wellbeing.

Recognising and reporting abuse

Kura ngurkantara tjakultjunanyi

This is carefully covered to match the child's ability level. Younger children think and talk about different kinds of touching, secrets, privacy and parts of the body, while older students also think and talk about abuse issues, internet safety, bullying on the internet and problem solving.

Protective strategies

Walytjangku atunmankuntjaku

Children learn about how adults are responsible for protecting all children. They talk and think about the different things they can do to keep themselves safe.

Adding to the learning at home

Parents/carers play a very important role in child protection. There are a number of topics you can talk about with your child at home that add to the focus areas being taught at school and preschool.

Teach your child about their right to be safe:

- » Check how your child is feeling and if they are showing any warning signs. Physical signs can include tensing muscles or sweating. Emotional signs can include crying or out of the ordinary behaviours. Other signs can include not wanting to undress or being scared to be home alone.
- » Talk about safety in a range of places, such as at the shop, the clinic or hospital, when you visit another community or town and talk about safe places to be.
- » Make an emergency plan for possible situations. Teach them what to do if no one is home after school, if they are lost in the shopping centre, if someone offers them a ride home from school or a person online wants to meet them.
- » Make a secret family password to be used when someone is picking up your child whom they have never met or when it is someone they know but weren't expecting.
- » Make sure they know how to use the phone and who they can ring in an emergency.

Teach your child about safe relationships:

- » Support your child's choice of trusted people in their network. Speak to their teacher if you have concerns.
- » Make sure that your child understands about his or her right to safety and talk about how they can work out situations in a fair and respectful way.

Recognise and report abuse:

- » Help your child to use the proper names for body parts so they can properly describe any situation that may arise.
- » Talk to your child about their whole body being private.
- » Make rules for online safety, social media, security and passwords and make sure that your child is keeping the rules.

Develop protective strategies:

- » Help your child to be assertive. Get them to practice saying 'no' or 'stop'.
- » Talk to them about the importance of telling a trusted person if something happens or they feel unsafe. Teach them to keep trying and not give up until someone listens.

Pitjantjatjara books

- » **Wati Munu Liru** – can encourage discussion about the problems young people have and importance of asking for help
- » **Malu Kulunypa piti ngati pulkangka tjarpantja** – problem solving - Stop, Think, Do
- » **Kunmanara** – a child is bullied. His family rally around to support him
- » **Nyuntu Ngayuku Ngunytju?** – feelings, safe and unsafe.

For a selection of resources on child safety, visit

<http://rantraining.e3learning.com.au/GetResource.jsp?resource=resource252>