

5 ways to support child protection

While we all know our role as mandatory reporters when it comes to child protection the following are some tips on how you can make sure you create a safe and protective space for all children...



Assign a child protection officer

In the same way that many services have a sustainability officer assigning a child protection officer means that someone who is passionate about this will advocate for protective measures and ensure that everyone is comfortable with their role around child protection.



Support the wellbeing of families

When families are going through a crisis this can place children at risk due to the increased stress in the home. Providing support for families during this time can reduce some of the stress and therefore protect the children. Establish ways you can create support systems and let families know discretely.



Practice child protection drills

Child protection, emergency responses and first aid are all very serious incident responses, yet we only regularly rehearse or recertify 2 of them. Creating child protection refreshers can help educators feel confident in responding to the children should the need arise.



Add child protection to each staff meeting

By having child protection as a standing item on the staff meeting agenda allows any issues, gaps in practice, concerns about the process etc. to be discussed. This is not the time to discuss specific concerns as these should be handled confidentially to protect the child.



Teach children respect, consent and autonomy

When working with children make sure that you teach them their body is their own and role model this through practices such as asking before touching children, allowing the children to say no and respecting their choices, responding to children in distress with nurturing support.