

Child Protection Policy



Procedure Relevant to:	All staff, Educators & families
Policy	Adventure Patch Infectious Diseases Policy
Last Reviewed:	October 2019
Next Review:	August 2022
NQF:	76, 84-86, 88-105, 161-166, 168, 169
NQS:	2.2, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1.2
National Law:	3 (2) (a) & (3) (a); 165-167, 170, 171, 174 (4), 189

Adventure Patch (AP) is committed to the safety, wellbeing and support of all children and young people. Management, Educators, staff and volunteers will treat all children with the utmost respect and understanding.

Adventure Patch believes that:

- Children are capable of the same range of emotions as adults.
- Children's emotions are real and need to be accepted by adults.
- A reaction given to a child from an adult in a child's early stages of emotional development can be positive or detrimental depending on the adult's behaviour.
- Children, who preserve, enhance and better understand their body's response to an emotion is more able to predict the outcome from a situation and evade them or ask for help.

All children have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. What happens to children when they are young may affect their whole lives.

Policy

All Educators, co-ordinators, staff, and students are committed to identifying possible risk and significant risk of harm to children and young people at the Service. We comprehend our duty of care responsibilities to protect children from all types of abuse, and adhere to our legislative obligations at all times.

We aim to implement effective strategies to assist in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children. AP will perform proficiently and act in the best interest of the child, assisting them to develop to their full potential in a secure and caring environment.

This policy applies to children, families, staff, FDC educators, management and visitors of the service.

Regulation 84 requires that the approved provider must ensure the nominated supervisors and staff members at the service who work with children are advised of the existence and application of the current child protection law in the relevant jurisdiction; and any obligations they may have under that law.

There are a range of ways in which an approved provider may demonstrate they meet this requirement and it may include a training program, if the delivery and assessment is contextualised to include Tasmanian child protection requirements under the [Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 2013](#).



It is the expectation of Adventure Patch educators and staff that they have undertaken training in child protection. Educators will undertake this training as part of their formally training.

What is Abuse?

Child abuse is any action towards a child or young person that harms or puts at risk their physical, psychological or emotional health or development. Child abuse can be a single incident, or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time.

Types of child abuse:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Emotional Abuse
4. Neglect
5. Psychological
6. Domestic Violence

Indicators of Abuse

There are common physical and behavioural signs that may indicate abuse or neglect. The presence of one of these signs does not necessarily mean abuse or neglect. Behavioural or physical signs which assist in recognising harm to children are known as indicators. The following is a guide only. One indicator on its own may not imply abuse or neglect. However a single indicator can be as important as the presence of several indicators. Each indicator needs to be deliberated in the perspective of other indicators and the child's circumstances. A child's behaviour is likely to be affected if he/she is under stress. There can be many causes of stress and it is important to find out specifically what is causing the stress. Abuse and neglect can be single incidents or ongoing, and may be intentional or unintentional.

General indicators of abuse and neglect may include:

- Marked delay between injury and seeking medical assistance
- History of injury
- The child gives some indication that the injury did not occur as stated
- The child tells you someone has hurt him/her
- The child tells you about someone he/she knows who has been hurt
- Someone (relative, friend, acquaintance, and sibling) tells you that the child may have been abused.

Reporting

Adventure Patch educators or persons involved in our organisation are legally mandated to report any knowledge, beliefs or suspicious that a child has suffered or is at risk of abuse to: Child Safety Services – Strong Families Safe Kids Advice & Referral Line – 1800 000 123

www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au

The requirement to notify, overrides any confidentiality requirements that may otherwise govern an educators behaviour in this regard.

In Tasmania the safety of children and young people is covered by *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*, amended in December 2013.

