

Child Safety at Smart Start Early Learning & Development Centre

At Smart Start ELDC, the safety, wellbeing, and inclusion of every child is the foundation of our practice. We believe all children have the right to feel safe, respected, and protected from harm, and we take our responsibility under the Child Safe Standards seriously.

Our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy guides our team in providing a nurturing, secure, and culturally responsive environment for every child.

Our Commitment

- We have zero tolerance for child abuse in any form.
- We actively promote children's rights, voice, and participation in everyday decision-making.
- We uphold a strong commitment to cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children of all cultural backgrounds, children with disability, and children with diverse needs.
- We prioritise ongoing professional learning, regular audits, and reflective practice to continuously strengthen safety across the service.

Who our policies apply to:

Our child safety responsibilities apply to everyone connected with Smart Start ELDC:

- Approved Provider and Management
- All educators and staff (permanent, casual, students, volunteers)
- Contractors, allied health partners, and regular visitors
- Families, carers, and community members attending our service

Child safety is a shared responsibility across our whole community.

How we keep children safe:

Safe Environments & Supervision

- Active supervision in all learning environments
- Daily and scheduled safety checks of equipment, yards, and indoor areas
- Comprehensive risk assessments for all excursions, walking outings, and special programs (e.g., Bush Kinder, Music & Movement, community visits)

Safe People: Recruitment processes that prioritise child safety (WWCC, references, qualification checks)

- Mandatory child protection training for all educators and leaders
- A clear **Child Safety Code of Conduct** that outlines expectations for behaviour and safe practice

Child-Centred Practice

- Respectful, trusting relationships where children feel heard
- Teaching children body safety, emotional literacy, and their right to feel safe
- Responding to concerns with sensitivity, timeliness, and confidentiality

Listening children and their families:

We are committed to:

- Encouraging children to express their views and feelings in safe, supported ways
- Taking all worries, disclosures, and behavioural changes seriously
- Seeking family input and using feedback to strengthen our child safe practices
- Ensuring our learning environments reflect inclusion, acceptance, and respect

Families are encouraged to approach leadership at any time with questions or concerns.

Responsibilities Management / Approved Provider:

- Overseeing the implementation and regular review of the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Ensuring compliance with Child Safe Standards and all reporting obligations
- Providing ongoing training and resourcing for educators
- Responding quickly and appropriately to safety concerns or allegations

Responsibilities Educators and Staff:

All educators must:

- Uphold the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Code of Conduct
- Maintain WWCC currency and required training
- Provide safe, supportive, and inclusive care
- Complete daily and scheduled child safety checks
- Fulfil mandatory reporting obligations where there is a risk of harm to a child

Families and Carers:

Families play an essential role by:

- Understanding our child safety expectations and policies
- Sharing important information that supports their child's wellbeing
- Contacting leadership promptly with any concerns

Reporting concerns or making a complaint:

If you have a concern about a child's safety, or about the conduct of a staff member, volunteer, or visitor:

- Speak with the Centre Director or Operations Manager
- Email: info@smartstartchildcare.com.au
- Phone: 03 9497 2078

All reports are treated seriously, confidentially, and in line with our legal obligations.
If you believe a child is at immediate risk, please contact **000**.



SMART START
EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE