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Providing a Child Safe Environment

A Club For Kids provides an environment that ensures the safety, health and wellbeing of children at all times. The welfare and protection of all children is of paramount importance. Educators will maintain the premises and equipment, adhere to procedures regarding safe practices and operate in line with legislative requirements relating to child protective practices and the Education and Care Services National Regulations and Law WA (2012). Educators and management are aware of their legal responsibility as Mandatory Reporters to take action to protect and support children they suspect may be at significant risk of harm.

Educators will ensure that children are adequately supervised at all times and that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury or trauma (National Quality Standards 2.3.1 & 2.3.2).

Managing the Facility

SECURITY:

- Only approved educators and management members will be given a key to access the building and equipment areas.
- A key register will be maintained that indicates the person's receipt of the key, date received, and date returned on completion of employment or completion of term as member of Management. As the service is situated on a school site, we will adhere to key registry requirements of the school.
- Extra keys will only be cut after agreement by the management and school Principal and a record made of where they are.
- All monies and important documents will be kept in a lockable place and access will only be permitted by approved staff and management members.
- Educators will ensure that the building is left in a secure manner before leaving and all windows, cupboards, safe, and other relevant areas are locked. All heating and lighting is off and all doors properly secured.
- Educators will inform the police, management and the school principal as soon as possible if there has been a break in to the service of any kind.
- Educators will remain at the service until the police arrive or inform them of what to do.



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BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

- Equipment will be chosen to meet the children's developmental needs and interests. There will be sufficient access to furniture, materials and developmentally appropriate equipment suitable for the education and care for each child.
- Service premises and all equipment and furniture will be maintained in a safe, clean condition and in good repair at all times.
- Children will be provided with adequate, developmentally and age-appropriate toilet, washing and drying facilities. These will enable safe use and convenient access by children.
- There must be no damaged plugs, sockets, power cords or extension cords.
- All plug sockets shall be maintained as child safe.
- Electrical appliances shall be in good working order.
- Electrical circuit breakers will be installed and be maintained.
- Provision will be made in the budget for regular maintenance and repair work and for deferred costs of major capital repairs.
- Management will develop a list of fully licensed and insured trades persons, which is made available to educators. This list will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- All contractors should have their own public liability insurance.
- The service and equipment will be regularly checked to ensure that they are in a good and safe condition, comply with relevant Australian Standards and have appropriate soft-fall surfacing maintained.
- Equipment will be regularly washed and cleaned.
- Recycled craft materials should be checked for potential hazards.
- Educators should ensure safe handling of all tools if used as part of any activity.
- Families will be encouraged to notify educators of any safety issues they observe.
- Anything that requires maintenance is to be reported to the Nominated Supervisor as soon as possible.
- Faulty equipment should be removed or protection placed around any dangerous building sites.
- A maintenance book will be kept that records any maintenance that needs to be addressed.
- The maintenance book will record; Type of problem Date that it was observed Who notified the Nominated Supervisor and when? What was done to rectify the problem?



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- Date repaired Tradesperson employed to repair the problem
- For urgent repairs the Nominated Supervisor will organise a contractor to attend to the problem. The contractor will be chosen from a list that has been previously approved by the committee.
- Non-urgent repairs will be recorded in the maintenance book. The Nominated Supervisor will note this in their report and bring it to the attention of management at the next meeting. Management and the Nominated Supervisor will organise to rectify the problem.
- For major repairs a minimum of three quotes will be sought and reviewed by management who will make a decision on a further course of action. The Nominated Supervisor or someone with management control may obtain the quotes.
- Maintenance reviews should be done as part of the Nominated Supervisor's report at each meeting.
- The Nominated Supervisor will also give a review of works completed by any tradesman employed, for future reference.
- It is the responsibility of management, once a problem has been raised, to ensure that it is rectified in the most efficient manner and that the service is safe for educators and clientele.
- Should the service be considered unsafe or as being a health risk, then the service will be closed, after notice has been given to all relevant parties, until the problem has been rectified.
- The service will have an appropriate number of first aid kits that are suitable to the ages and needs of the children attending. The first aid kit will be well stocked and be easily recognised and accessible at all times.

STORAGE:

- A storage system should be devised that ensures easy access and un-cluttered storage of all equipment.
- Storage areas will be cleaned and tidied at the end of every Term or when seen as necessary.
- Play equipment and toys should be easily accessible to all children during the operating hours of the service.
- Children will show respect for the equipment and be expected to pack equipment away that they have used to avoid trip hazards.



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- All equipment is to be neatly packed away at the end of each session.
- Craft equipment will be stored in a separate area, children should ask permission before removing any craft equipment, such as paints and glues etc. which has not been set up by the staff.
- All craft equipment is to be properly washed and cleaned before storage.
- Where room permits, a separate storage area will be available for sporting and large outdoor equipment to prevent clutter.
- All items such as cleaning materials, disinfectants, flammable, poisonous and other dangerous substances, tools, toiletries, first aid equipment, and medications should be stored in the designated secured area which is inaccessible to the children. Educators are responsible to ensure that these areas remain secure and that they do not inadvertently provide access to these items.
- Kitchen and other refuse areas will be provided with lidded facilities that are cleaned and emptied daily.
- Educators and management will ensure that all family records are kept in a nominated secure place, ensuring that records are kept confidential and not left accessible to others during the course of the daily operations.

VENTILATION, TEMPERATURE AND NATURAL LIGHT:

- All heating and cooling systems will be of good quality and checked regularly to ensure safety and reliability.
- All heating and cooling systems and power cords will be kept in a safe area and away from children.
- Educators will take individual needs and specific activities into account when ensuring that heating, ventilation levels are comfortable.
- Should educators, children or families complain about the temperature in the service not being at a comfortable level, this matter will be drawn to the attention of management and steps will be made to address the problem.
- Adequate ventilation will be provided at all times. Windows will be properly maintained to ensure easy opening and protection from bugs and insects.
- Where activities involve toxic materials such as paints and glues, staff are to ensure there is adequate ventilation before undertaking the activity.
- Windows are to be opened during operation of the service unless closed to protect from extreme weather conditions.



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- Natural light is considered to be most desirable. Provision of natural light areas will be enhanced as much as possible.
- In areas made available for children's homework or other fine detail, natural light will be made available where possible and good overhead lighting provided.
- Adequate light will be maintained both indoors and outdoors. A security light will be placed at the entrance to the service that clearly provides unobstructed view of the door and surrounding areas.
- Outdoor lighting will be suitable so that families, staff and children can enter and exit the building without any unsafe dark areas.

Managing the indoor and Outdoor Environment:

INDOOR ENVIRONMENT:

- The services indoor environment will be smoke free.
- The Nominated Supervisor will only enrol the number of children in the service, which can comfortably fit into the building space and in accordance with the National Regulations.
- Where children are indoors for long periods due to weather conditions, special activities will be planned and other areas sought to disperse the group such as school halls and verandas.
- Separate areas in the indoor environment will be provided for:
 - ❖ Signing children in/out of the service.
 - ❖ Collection of fees, answering phones, and maintaining daily records.
 - ❖ Educators and families to talk in confidence.
 - ❖ Children to store their bags and belongings.
 - ❖ Storage of equipment, food, dangerous materials, and family records. Preparation of food and drinks. Kitchen and other refuse.
 - ❖ Cleaning of equipment.
 - ❖ Male and female toilet, hand basins and hand drying facilities.
 - ❖ Creative and other activities.
 - ❖ Large and small group activities.
 - ❖ Display of children's activities and work.
 - ❖ Quiet space for children to retreat to, or do homework or lie down if unwell.



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- The indoor area is to be set up to allow children to participate in a variety of activities with easy access to equipment. Drawing paper and other materials will be made available to the children at all times.
- Easy access to areas should be maintained by making clear easily definable passageways and walkways through the building.
- Staff will ensure that children properly store their bags and that bags and other items are not thrown into walkways or play areas.
- All items obstructing areas are to be removed and placed in the correct storage areas.
- Areas must be setup to ensure that proper supervision can be maintained at all times.
- Access to the outdoor environment should be clear and easily accessible by the children and staff

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT:

- The outdoor environment provides each child with at least 7 square metres of unencumbered outdoor space in compliance with National Regulation 108.
- The outdoor environment will be smoke free and where possible on excursions.
- The outdoor space will be inspected daily for any obstacles or dangerous items and the hazard check will be recorded.
- Any hazardous items will be disposed of in a safe and careful manner prior to the children playing in the area.
- The outdoor space will be set up in a variety of ways to encourage participation.
- Areas will be made available where children can play in large or small groups or by themselves.
- Supervision should be properly maintained. Children are only to play in areas that are clearly visible to educators, and where child/educator ratios are maintained.
- Clear boundaries shall be set and enforced.
- When it is necessary to go outside the boundaries or line of supervision, an educator must accompany children.
- Adequate shade via trees and coverings will be maintained.
- Use of other outdoor venues will be considered where access to the area is safe, adequate supervision can be maintained, the area is considered of value to the children's physical development and personal comfort, and where adequate staff/educator ratios can be maintained.



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Child Protective Practices (will be updated in recognition of new working with children check legislation when introduced)

MANDATORY REPORTING:

- A Mandatory Reporter is anybody who delivers services to children as part of their paid or professional work.
- In OSHC services mandatory reporters are:
 - ❖ Educators that deliver services to children
 - ❖ Management, either paid or voluntary, whose duties include direct responsibility or direct supervision for the provision of these services.
- Educators are mandated to report to Community Services if they have current concerns about the safety or welfare of a child relating to the Children and Community Services Amendment (Reporting Sexual Abuse of Children) Act 2008
- Educators will undergo training in relation to child protection and reporting as part of the training budget.
- Reports should be treated with strict confidentiality in adherence to the service's Confidentiality Policy and Procedures.
- Any educator who forms a belief based on reasonable grounds that a child is at risk of harm should discuss their concerns with the Nominated Supervisor and/or the Responsible Person in charge of daily operation as they may have information the educator is not aware of. The incident/s that lead the educator to form the belief should be recorded concisely, include as much detail as possible and be kept in a secure place to ensure confidentiality.
- The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will then assist staff in completing the online Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG) to determine whether the report meets the threshold for significant risk of harm (see point below for further information regarding the MRG).
- If directed by the MRG to report to Community Services, should report their concerns to the Child Protection Helpline:
 - ❖ Mandatory Reporters phone **1800 708 704** or non mandatory reporters contact DCP
 - ❖ Online <http://www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au/Pages/MakeaReport.aspx>
- When reporting to the Child Protection Helpline, it is important to have as much information as possible available regarding the child/children involved and any specific



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incident details. This might include child's information, family information, reporter details and outcomes of the MRG.

- If the Nominated Supervisor has been advised to but has not reported to Community Services you are legally responsible to do so.
- Once a report is made to the Child Protection Helpline no further report needs to be made unless new information comes to hand.
- A Mandatory Reporting Guide is available upon request for Educators

WHERE A COMPLAINT IS MADE ABOUT AN EDUCATOR OR SOMEONE IN THE SERVICE:

- Should an incident occur that involves a child being put at risk of harm from an educator, volunteer, trainee or person visiting the service, this is regarded as 'reportable conduct' and necessitates such conduct being reported to the Corruption and Crime Commissioner within 30 days.
- Where the allegation is made to an educator or member of management the facts as stated will be recorded in writing, using an Incident Report template that includes dates, times, names of person/s involved, name of person making allegation and the person making the report. This report should be kept on record and treated as strictly confidential.
- If the Nominated Supervisor or responsible person in charge is suspected then the service's management should be informed.
- The relevant forms together with information and assistance are available online at www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.
- The person making the report should follow the advice of the CCC Officers. Management will also follow this advice.
- The matter will be treated with strict confidentiality.
- For the protection of both the children and the educator involved, the educator should be encouraged to take special leave or be removed from duties involving direct care and contact with children, until the situation is resolved.
- Support should be provided to all involved. This support can be given in the form of counseling or referral to an appropriate agency.



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RECRUITMENT AND ORIENTATION OF STAFF:

- All educators employed by the service including management, full time/ part time and casual educators, volunteers and students will be subject to a Working with Children Check.
- When the service engages a self-employed individual to provide services, the provider is required to provide a Certificate for Self-Employed People. This certificate ensures verification that the person employed is not banned by law from working with children.
- All staff will be informed of their responsibilities as a Mandatory Reporter as part of their orientation and induction process. This will involve discussion regarding their current understanding, use of this policy and resources and access to Child Protection training. Information related to sexual grooming will also be provided upon orientation and induction to ensure that staff are fully aware of the signs and limits related to appropriately interacting with children.