

Health and Safety - Child Protection Policy

Why do we have this policy?

Pukeko Preschool believes that the safety of our children is paramount to everything else. We have procedures in place to ensure that Pukeko Preschool is as safe an environment as possible, and also procedures to ensure that the issues of emotional, physical and sexual abuse of our children are addressed both while they are at Preschool and so that our teachers are aware of how to deal with suspicions of abuse outside of centre.

Child Protection Policy Procedures

- Teachers at Pukeko Preschool will be made aware of this policy and the issues of emotional, physical and sexual abuse at the time of their induction.
- Pukeko Preschool will maintain high teacher/child ratios.
- A confidential 'Concern' book is kept as written documentation on any issues of concern teachers may note about a child. Full, relevant, contextual factors are recorded in this book. The concern book is only available through the Centre Manager and all concerns noted must be signed off by the Centre Manager. The teacher who raises the concerns may choose to sign the noted concern or not, at their sole discretion.
- All unregistered permanent teaching staff will be police vetted either by Pukeko Preschool, or will be hired through a recruitment company who carries out their own police vetting.
- The Centre Manager and teaching staff will always make themselves available to confidentially speak with parents or care givers about any concerns or suspicions of abuse which they may have.
- Parents and care givers are able to visit Pukeko Preschool at any time during the day.
- Only adults named on the enrolment form are automatically able to collect children from the Preschool. Parents and care givers must phone the Preschool if they would like a different person to pick up a child that day. If a parent or care giver specifically would like a person to not be allowed to pick up their child(ren), we require this to be in writing on the enrolment form.
- Our play spaces and outdoor playground are set up and designed to have a maximum amount of open, easily supervised space.
- Permission from parents and care givers is required for their child(ren) to participate in Preschool outings.

- A complaints procedure exists to ensure issues of concern are dealt with appropriately.
- The following measures will be taken by all teachers regarding suspected abuse or mistreatment:
 - All allegations or suspicions of child abuse and mistreatment will be taken seriously.
 - No teacher will act alone regarding suspected child abuse. The Centre Manager will be consulted and she/he will take further action.
 - Any person disclosing information in good faith regarding suspected abuse will be assured the protection afforded by law.
 - If the Centre Manager suspects a child is unsafe, she or he will report it to the Police or Department of Social Welfare.
 - If there are any allegations of abuse by a Preschool employee, the police will be informed immediately and the teacher will be suspended while the matter is investigated.
 - Pukeko Preschool Mangere East will offer support to all those involved in any abuse allegations.
- We realise and accept our own limitations in dealing with issues of abuse. Professional agencies such as CYFS and the Police will be contacted when required. We also communicate with Mangere East Family Service Centre primarily because of their close proximity to our centre and also their expertise on the local community.

Te Whāriki

Strand 1 – Well being – Mana Atua. Children experience an environment where they are kept safe from harm (Goal 3). In this case, this refers to protecting them from harm from potentially dangerous adults.