Partnerships with families  
4th September to 8th September 2023

Dear Families,

As a part of the continuous improvement required by the National Quality Standard, this week we are:

* reviewing our legal obligations to identify and report known or suspected cases of harm, abuse or neglect of children. Harm and abuse can occur as a result of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological abuse and domestic violence. Please let us know if you’d like more information on this topic, for example the indicators of harm, abuse or neglect, community support agencies, or the reporting process
* reviewing our Child ProtectionPolicy and Child Safe Policy. Summaries follow:

**Child Protection Policy**

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, employees, volunteers and students will:

* be trained in their child protection obligations so they can confidently
  + identify indicators of abuse
  + manage disclosures or suspicions of abuse/neglect
  + report abuse/neglect to relevant authorities including any made involving employees, volunteers, students
  + prepare accurate records to assist investigations and store them securely
* always take anything a child says seriously and follow up their concerns
* maintain the confidentiality of all parties involved in an investigation
* keep their child protection clearance current (eg working with children check) unless exempted under the law.

**Child Safe Policy NSW**

Our Service commits to an environment and practices which are consistent with the NSW Child Safe Standards:

1. Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
3. Families and communities are informed and involved
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account
5. People working with children are suitable and supported
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child-focused
7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse or other kinds of harm to occur
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

The Policy outlines how we support the Standards, including through many of our other Policies and procedures.

There are copies of the policies near the sign in/out sheet. Please take a moment to read them. We value any feedback you may have.

Nominated Supervisor