



# Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service

Child Protection



## **POLICIES IN THIS SECTION AS REQUIRED BY:**

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012: Section 3(2)(a) and (3)(a); 165--167; 170; 171; 174(2); 189

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2012 – ‘Regulations’:76(a)(b); 84--86; 88--105; 161 – 166; 168; 169 (2)(e)(f)

National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care (2010) Standard 2.3; 5.1; 5.2; 7.3.

**Policy:** An approved provider must ensure that all Family Day Care Educators and Family Day Care Service staff who work with children are aware of the current child protection law in their jurisdiction and understand their obligations under that law.

## **Procedures:**

1. Child protection training, in line with recognized authorities, will be undertaken by Family Day Care Service staff and Family Day Care Educators.

## **Allegations Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Against An Educator Or A Person Residing Within The Family Day Care Residence.**

1. The Family Day Care Educator is required to report any allegation of abuse, neglect or assault, including sexual assault to the nominated supervisor of the Family Day Care Service.
2. If the allegation is made about someone other than the family day care educator, the family day care educators must not discuss in any way to alert the person suspected of child abuse that a concern has been raised.
3. The notification must be made no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the day on which the incident or allegation was made.
4. Where an allegation of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological abuse or neglect is investigated by the Department for Child Protection, the Family Day Care Service will be guided in its decisions by the recommendations of the officers of the Department of Child Protection, and take whatever action is deemed appropriate for the safety and welfare of all the children in care.
5. Where a serious incident has occurred, as prescribed under R12 of the National Regulations, the procedures within Policy *Serious Incidents, Emergencies and Evacuation* must be followed.

## **Allegation Or Suspicion That A Child In Family Day Care Is Suffering Abuse By Someone Outside The Family Day Care Educator’s Home**

1. The allegation is not to be discussed with the alleged perpetrator or any other person outside the reporting structure.

2. Whenever a Family Day Care Educator or Family Day Care Service staff forms a belief that a child may be at risk of child abuse or neglect, the concern must be reported to the nominated supervisor or may be reported directly to the Department for Child Protection. The nominator supervisor will ensure that the reporting procedures are carried out and will provide appropriate feedback to the person who raised the concern that action has been taken.
3. Family Day Care Educators and Family Day Care Assistants will document the disclosure, observation and concerns accurately and objectively. The Family Day Care Educator shall not discuss or take visual images of the child in question or investigate the suspicion themselves.
4. Informal discussion of any concerns should always occur with the Department for Child Protection, as family or other reports may have been received by the Department and the current concerns need to be documented to add to their evidence.
5. Accredited Child Protection training such as “in Safe Hands” will be completed every three years by all registered Educators, Educator Assistants and all staff who hold approved Child Care Qualifications.