



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 2.1;2.2; 5.1; 5.2; 7.1.2.

SCOPE:

Family Day Care Educators; Family Day Care Assistants; Family Day Care Service staff members.

Policy: An approved provider must ensure that all Family Day Care Educators, Educator Assistants and Family Day Care Service staff who work with children are aware of the current child protection law in WA and understand their obligations under that law. Recognised Child Protection training must remain current and will be updated every three years.

Definitions of Abuse

Child abuse is any action towards a child or young person that harms or puts at risk their physical, psychological or emotional health or development. Child abuse can be a single incident or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time.

There are different forms of child abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, psychological abuse and child neglect.

Procedures:

1. Child protection training, in line with recognised authorities, will be undertaken by Family Day Care Service staff who hold childcare qualifications, Family Day Care Educators and Educator Assistants and will be completed every three years.

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 as per Policy 3.1 - Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness.

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.

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 nominated 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 may take visual images of the child in question but will not use these photos or investigate the suspicion themselves. The privacy of the child is paramount, and any misuse of photos or information could result in legal action being taken.
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.

Supporting Documents:

NA-FRM-0002 Incident Injury Trauma Illness Report

Supporting Policies:

NA-POL-0001.7 Child Safety

NA-POL-0003.1 Incident, Injury, Trauma, and Illness