



Child Safe Conduct Policy for Light Up Play Therapy

At Light Up Play Therapy, ensuring the safety and well-being of children is our top priority. We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children who participate in our play therapy sessions. This Child Safe Conduct Policy outlines our guidelines and expectations for staff, therapists, and volunteers to maintain a safe and supportive atmosphere.

1. Commitment to Child Safety

1. ****Zero Tolerance for Abuse****: We have zero tolerance for any form of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, or harm. This includes physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse.
2. ****Child-Centred Approach****: Our practices are child-centred, respecting the rights, dignity, and individuality of each child.
3. ****Transparency and Accountability****: We maintain transparency in our practices and encourage accountability among all staff and therapists.

2. Recruitment and Training

1. ****Screening Process****: All staff, therapists, and volunteers undergo a rigorous screening process, including background checks, to ensure their suitability to work with children.
2. ****Training and Education****: Staff and therapists receive training on child protection policies, recognizing signs of abuse, and appropriate behaviour around children.

3. Conduct and Behavior

1. ****Professional Conduct****: All interactions with children must be professional, respectful, and supportive.
2. ****Physical Contact****: Physical contact with children should be minimal and appropriate to the therapeutic context. Any physical contact must always be with the child's consent and in accordance with best practice guidelines.
3. ****Confidentiality****: Confidentiality is maintained at all times, except when required by law to report concerns of abuse or neglect.

4. Supervision and Monitoring

1. ****Supervision****: Sessions are conducted in an open environment where access and visibility to the play room is provided for accompanying parents or guardians.

2. **Monitoring**: Regular monitoring and supervision of sessions and interactions with children are conducted to ensure compliance with policies and guidelines.

5. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

1. **Reporting**: Any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child must be reported immediately to the designated Child Protection Officer.

2. **Response**: Allegations or suspicions of child abuse are taken seriously and investigated promptly. We cooperate fully with authorities and follow legal reporting obligations.

6. Review and Compliance

1. **Review**: This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and aligned with best practices and regulatory requirements.

2. **Compliance**: All staff, therapists, and volunteers are expected to comply with this policy. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or volunteer status.

Regulatory References

This policy is informed by the relevant regulations and guidelines set forth by:

- **NSW Child Protection Legislation**
- **Australian Association of Play Therapy Code of Ethics**
- **Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) Standards**

Conclusion

At Light Up Play Therapy, we are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment where children can explore and heal through play therapy. By adhering to this Child Safe Conduct Policy and staying informed about best practices and regulations, we uphold our commitment to the safety and well-being of every child in our care.

This policy should be accompanied by training sessions for all staff and regular reminders to ensure everyone is aware of their responsibilities and obligations under the policy.