

Why have a Child Protection Curriculum?

We provide child protection curriculum to ensure that all children and young people know:

- what child abuse is and the harm it causes
- that abuse is against the law
- the protection they are entitled to
- that children and young people who have been abused are not to blame
- that they have a right to report child abuse.

Child Protection Materials

The materials are part of the State's mainstream curriculum and they cover the levels of learning for Preschool to Year 12.

Early years age 3–5
Early Years Reception–Year 2
Primary Years 3–5
Middle Years 6–9
Senior Years 10–12

What's it about?

The Child Protection curriculum is based on **two main themes** which are presented at the different levels of learning through topics and activities of increasing complexity.

Theme 1: We all have the right to be safe.

Learners are encouraged to think about people and things which keep them safe. For younger children safety is based on their needs, for example to be looked after properly by adults. For older students the theme is based on a human rights perspective and includes their responsibilities. Many schools and preschools include this right to be safe as part of their values and anti-bullying and harassment policies.

Theme 2: We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.

This theme encourages children and students to identify a wide range of people they trust and can talk to. The curriculum is very explicit in that our feelings about who we can trust may be confused, mixed up and can change. Someone we once trusted may behave in a way that means we don't trust them anymore.

These themes are dealt with in four focus areas.

- 1 **The right to be safe**
- 2 **Relationships**
- 3 **Recognising and reporting abuse**
- 4 **Protective strategies**

Four Focus Areas

The curriculum has four **Focus Areas** which are examined in ways that are appropriate for the age of the learners.

Focus area 1: The right to be safe

Children and students are encouraged to learn about different feelings they might have in different situations. They are taught about Early Warning Signs that help them recognise where they may be at risk of harm.

Focus area 2: Relationships

Children and young people explore a range of relationships and know that relationships can change. Children and young people learn to recognise healthy and unhealthy or abusive relationships. They develop ways of identifying networks of people they can trust, including networks in the community.

Focus area 3: Recognising and reporting abuse

The curriculum covers this area sensitively, according to the children's developmental level. At all times teachers use the strategy of "one step removed" and "protective interrupting" so that children and young people do not disclose personal information in a classroom or preschool setting.

Focus area 4: Protective strategies

While adults have a responsibility to protect children, there are some things children and young people can do to help keep themselves safe. According to their level of development, children and young people are encouraged to develop a broad network of people and organisations that can take action to keep them safe. The strategy of persisting until we are safe is strongly emphasised.

Keeping
Safe

Parents/caregivers can help their children's learning about safety by

- actively listening
- talking together
- encouraging the development of respectful relationships
- supporting and monitoring children's developing networks
- informing themselves and their children about electronic media safety
- supporting the practising of problem solving strategies
- being informed about the DECS 'Keeping Safe: Child protection curriculum'

Keeping Safe

Resources

- Electronic media safety. www.netalert.com
- Child, Youth Health www.cyh.com.au
- Kids Help Line 1800 551 800
- Parenting SA Easy Guides

You can find pamphlets at local libraries, community health centres or Parenting SA 8303 1660. www.parenting.sa.gov.au

- Child abuse
- Protect your children from Paedophiles
- Children and the internet
- Discipline with Love
- Bullying

Further information

Further information is available from

- your child's teachers
- Principal/Director
- District office
- Child protection curriculum policy officer
DECS
31 Flinders Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Ph: 8226 4283

Keeping Safe

Child Protection Curriculum

For preschool to year 12

The right to be **safe**

Relationships

Recognising and reporting **abuse**

Protective **strategies**



Government of South Australia
Department of Education and
Children's Services