

Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub Child Safety Policy

This policy is intended to empower children who are vital participants of Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub.

We promote diversity and tolerance at Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub. People from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds are welcome. Our core values are to:

- Promote the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of First Nations children
- Promote the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and
- Ensure that children with a disability are safe and can participate equally.

Commitment to Child Safety

Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub is committed to child safety. This policy meets the obligations and objectives as outlined by the Victorian Child Safe Safety Standards (2017), specifically:

- We ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of all children receiving speech pathology from Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub is protected at all times;
- We protect all children from any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm; and
- We support the rights of all children to feel safe, and be safe, at all times.

Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub is committed to the safety, participation, and empowerment of all children. We support and respect all clients, as well as parents. We have zero tolerance to child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously. We have legal, ethical and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety. Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub is committed to regularly training and educating staff and volunteers on child safety risks.

We are committed to the safety of all children, including the cultural safety of First Nations children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

Privacy

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, unless there is a risk to someone's safety.

Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub has practices in place to ensure any personal information is protected. Everyone is entitled to know how this information is recorded, what will be done with it, and who will have access to it (please request a copy of the Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub's privacy statement and policy).

Child Safe Environment

- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub will ensure that children are adequately supervised;
- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub ensures the physical environment is safe, secure and free from hazards for all children;
- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub ensures all equipment and materials used meet relevant safety standards;
- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub ensures the practice maintains a clean environment daily, and tripping/slipping hazards are removed as soon as they become apparent;
- All dangerous substances such as cleaning products and chemicals are stored safely;
- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub ensures that all staff within the practice read, understand, and implement this policy; and
- Bayside Speech & Literacy Hub will keep up to date and comply with any changes in legislation and practices in relation to this policy.

Staff and Volunteers

This policy guides our staff and volunteers on how to behave and provide a safe environment for all children. All of our staff and volunteers agree to abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when working with children. All staff and volunteers must hold a current “Working with Children Check”.

Additionally, our speech pathologists are members of Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) and hold accreditation of Certified Practicing Speech Pathologist (CPSP). As part of their membership to SPA they must adhere to and practice according to all parts of the profession’s Code of Ethics (2010). The Code of Ethics clearly supports the Victorian Child Safe Standards, specifically section 3.1.7 Safety & Welfare; and 3.2.1 Professional Conduct where members must ‘observe relevant statutes, legislation and regulations’.