

## Child Protection Policy

All Educators are dedicated to the care, security, and individual attention needed by all children. Educators are made aware of, and are familiar with all Preschool Policies and Procedures and acknowledge the great importance of adhering to them and are reviewed annually by all employed staff. In particular the policies and procedures in relation to 'Child Abuse' as outlined below as per Part 4, Div 2., Section 52-(2) - Harmful Actions Not Permitted" of the "Community Care and Assisted Living Act CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATION" [Last amended June 1, 2020 by B.C. Reg. 118/2020] :

(2) A licensee must ensure that a child is not, while under the care or supervision of the licensee, subjected to any of the following types of abuse or neglect, as described in section I or Schedule H:

- (a) emotional abuse;
- (b) financial abuse;
- (c) neglect;
- (d) physical abuse;
- (e) sexual abuse.

Emotional Abuse is defined as "which means any act, or lack of action, which may diminish the sense of well-being of a child, such as verbal harassment, yelling or confinement, perpetrated by a person not in care."

Physical Abuse is defined as "which means any physical force that is excessive for, or is inappropriate to, a situation involving a child and perpetrated by a person not in care." (e.g.: physical punishment, Confinement, physical restraint, or separation without adult supervision and/or away from other persons in care)

Sexual Abuse is defined as "Any sexual behavior directed towards a child in care by an employee of the licensee, volunteer, or any other person in a position of trust, power, or authority, and includes any sexual exploitation whether consensual or not, and sexual activity between children if the difference in age or power between the children is so significant that the older or more powerful child is clearly taking sexual advantage of the younger or less powerful child."

Neglect is defined as "The failure of a child care provider to meet the needs of a person in care.) (e.g.: deprivation of shelter, supervision, snacks, or necessary use of a toilet)."

### **POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE**

#### ***Physical Indicators:***

- » Any injury to an infant who is not yet mobile, especially head/facial injuries;
- » Injuries to a toddler or older child for which there is no explanation, the explanation does not fit with the injuries, or the story keeps changing;
- » Injuries at different stages of healing;
- » Injuries that have a pattern or look like they may have been caused by an object (e.g., hand, stick, buckle, stove element); or
- » Bruising in unusual places such as ears, trunk, neck or buttocks.

***Behavioural Indicators:***

- » Afraid or reluctant to go home, or runs away;
- » Shows unusual aggression, rages or tantrums;
- » Flinches when touched;
- » Has changes in school performance and attendance;
- » Withdraws from family, friends and activities previously enjoyed;
- » Poor self-esteem (e.g., describes self as bad, feels punishment is deserved, is very withdrawn);  
or
- » Suicidal thoughts or self-destructive behaviour (e.g., self-mutilation, suicide attempt, extreme risk-taking behaviour).

**POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

***Physical Indicators:***

- » Unexplained or persistent pain, bleeding or unusual discharge in the genital or anal area;
- » Pregnancy; or
- » Sexually transmitted diseases.

***Behavioural Indicators:***

- » Engages in age-inappropriate sexual play or exhibits age-inappropriate sexual knowledge (e.g., through drawing or play);
- » Forces or coerces another child to engage in sexual play;
- » Inserts objects into vagina or rectum;
- » Directs sexually intrusive behaviour to adults;
- » Has unexplained gifts, new clothes or money;
- » Has changes in school performance and attendance;
- » Is secretive about “new” friends, activities, phone calls or Internet use;
- » Has unexplained developmental setbacks (e.g., was toilet trained but reverts back);
- » Is involved in sexually exploitive activities, such as performing sex acts for money;
- » Is involved in behaviors such as misuse of drugs or alcohol, stealing, fire-setting
- » flinches when touched

**POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF EMOTIONAL HARM**

***Physical Indicators:***

- » Bed wetting and/or frequent diarrhea; or
- » Frequent psychosomatic complaints, headaches, nausea, abdominal pains

***Behavioural Indicators:***

- » Mental or emotional development lags;
- » Isolated and has no friends or complains of social isolation;
- » Behaviours inappropriate for age
- » Fear of failure, overly high standards, reluctant to play;

- » Fears consequences of actions, often leading to lying;
- » Extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness, mood swings;
- » Overly compliant, too well-mannered;
- » Excessive neatness and cleanliness;
- » Extreme attention-seeking behaviours;
- » Poor peer relationships;
- » Severe depression, may be suicidal;
- » Runaway attempts;
- » Violence is a subject for art or writing;
- » Forbidden contact with other children;
- » Shows little anxiety towards strangers; or
- » Unusual severe anxiety or worries.

## **POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF NEGLECT**

### ***Physical Indicators:***

- » Injuries where medical care has been unusually delayed or avoided;
- » Injuries resulting from a lack of supervision;
- » Medical or dental needs that are consistently unattended to;
- » “Failure to thrive” in a child where no medical reason has been found (see table below for further information on failure to thrive);
- » Clothing consistently inadequate for weather conditions;
- » Persistent hunger;
- » Poor or inadequate nutrition; or
- » Poor personal hygiene.

### ***Behavioural Indicators:***

- » Forages for, hoards or steals food;
- » Developmental delay or setbacks related to a lack of stimulation;
- » Poor school attendance;
- » Inappropriately takes on a caregiver role for a parent or siblings;
- » Tired or unable to concentrate at school;
- » Appears sad or has flat affect;
- » Reluctant to go home; speaks of being or appears to be left alone at home a lot, unsupervised;
- » Is involved in behaviours such as misuse of drugs or alcohol, stealing, fire-setting; or
- » Does not respond to affection or stimulation.