

WE ARE COMMITTED TO CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Catholic Care's Family Day Care Service is dedicated to child safety - ensuring every child is protected, supported, and empowered.



COLLABORATION WITH CHILDREN

We actively involve children in shaping safe and supportive environments.

- Children's voices are incorporated into decision making and they are encouraged to make choices about their day.
- Children can raise concerns, complaints and allegations and we will respond promptly and appropriately.
- We provide age-appropriate and child friendly learning resources about body safety and personal safety.
- We provide education for children and educators about protective behaviours.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

We partner with families to build a culture of safety and trust.

- Our Family Day Care service focus on each child's individual needs.
- Families can provide feedback or raise concerns through multiple channels, including through the service, Catholic Care enquiries or the NSW Department of Education.

SAFEGUARDING AND RISK MANAGEMENT

We actively assess and manage risks to ensure child safety is never compromised.

- Catholic Care has a Child Safety Committee to provide oversight, guidance, and leadership in promoting and embedding a child safe culture across the organisation.
- Children's safety is a key consideration in assessing risk across all practices at services.
- Excursions, workshops and service activities include child-safe measures.
- We have a strong reporting culture in place with clear protocols for investigation and follow-up.
- All of our educators are Mandatory Reporters under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS AND SUPERVISION

Each Family Day Care service has designated and approved spaces to ensure flexibility of routine and to ensure that children remain visible, supported and safe.

- Our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is displayed at all our educator premises.
- We conduct regular audits and safety checks on our educator environments and ensure our services comply with all national regulations.
- Children are always visible or within listening range of their educator.
- The safety and supervision of children in and around bathrooms is of the highest priority.
- All Family Day Care service environments are monitored monthly and audited at least annually.
- Mandatory Reporter information as well as Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Reporting Obligations are displayed in all services.
- Our educators ensure children do not leave their Family Day Care premises unless the child is given to the care of a parent of the child or an authorised nominee named on the child's enrolment record.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our staff and educators regularly participate in training and professional development opportunities related to child protection and child development. This ensures that we are able to meet the changing needs of children and families and obtain the knowledge, skills and confidence to provide safe, supportive and inclusive care.

RECRUITMENT AND INDUCTION

We ensure that our staff and educators are aware of the importance of child safety in our organisation from the initial stages of recruitment and induction. As part of our induction, staff and educators are introduced to our child-safe culture, including their child protection responsibilities, reporting obligations and commitment to child safety which they agree to adhere to in their signed Code of Conduct.

All staff, educators and educator household members (over the age of 16 years) are required to hold a valid NSW Working with Children's Check and complete mandatory Police Checks.

RECRUITMENT AND INDUCTION

We promote a strong reporting culture and believe that open and honest communication supports us to build strong partnerships with our families and ensures that any concerns that you may have are addressed promptly and appropriately.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can report these by:

- Discussing them with your Family Day Care educator and/or their individual Educator Support Specialist (ESS)
- Contacting our Family Day Care Office on 02 8843 2560 or FDCAdmin@catholiccarewsbm.org.au
- Directly to the NSW Department of Education's Early Childhood Education Directorate on 1800 619 113 or email ececd@det.nsw.edu.au. (You can remain anonymous if you wish)

FEEDBACK

Email us FDCAdmin@catholiccarewsbm.org.au
Call us (02) 8843 2560
Write to us Executive Director
Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
Level 2, 10 Victoria Road,
North Parramatta NSW 1750

catholic care
WESTERN SYDNEY AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Care when you need it most