

Motuoru Development Services

Child Protection Policy.

Rationale:

All workers will be made aware of this policy and the issues of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Employees operate within a 'National Code of Ethics' which sets a high standard for professionals in our field, we are bound by and supportive of The Child, Young Persons and their Families Act (1989) as well as the Vulnerable Children Act (2014)

Procedures:

A complaints procedure ensures issues of concern are dealt with appropriately. Parents are encouraged to express their feelings and concerns in order for the operation of the programme to be constantly improved.

We realise and accept our own limitations in dealing with the issues of abuse. As we have social workers working alongside us, they will be our first point of call, in situations of immediate risk notifications will be put into Oranga Tamariki [OT] or Police, any other concerns will be brought to the attention of management. Then professionals agencies such as Police, OT and many others will be sought for their specialised knowledge.

Written documentation is kept on any issues of concern including full, relevant, contextual factors which will be documented .

The following measures will be taken by all workers regarding suspected abuse:

1. All allegations of child abuse will be taken seriously
2. No worker will act alone regarding suspected child abuse.
3. If it is suspected a child is unsafe, if the concern is of a sexual or physical matter. the parents will not be informed prior to OT involvement. This is to prevent any opportunities to coach the child, or remove/destroy any incriminating evidence, hampering an investigation.

If there are any allegations of abuse by a worker. The authorities will be informed immediately, and the employee will be suspended while the matter is under investigation.

We will offer support to all those involved in any abuse allegation.

Training / Professionalism:

All workers will have training in child protection, either as part of their training/field of expertise, or in addition to this.

We do not assume responsibility beyond the level of our own expertise.

This policy will be reviewed biennially