



Child Safe Policy

1. Introduction

Expressions Play Therapy is committed to creating and maintaining a child-safe environment. Our Child Safe Policy outlines our approach to safeguarding children and ensuring their safety and well-being during play therapy sessions. This policy aligns with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic).

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children from harm and abuse while in our care.
- Promote a culture of safety and respect within our clinic.
- Provide clear procedures for reporting and addressing concerns related to child safety.

3. Commitment to Child Safety

Expressions Play Therapy is committed to:

- Ensuring that all staff, including therapists, administrators, and volunteers, are trained in child safety and aware of their responsibilities.
- Creating an environment where children feel safe, supported, and valued.
- Implementing practices that prevent abuse and respond effectively to any concerns or incidents.

4. Code of Conduct

All staff and volunteers at Expressions Play Therapy are required to adhere to our Code of Conduct, which includes:

- Respecting the dignity and rights of all children.
- Maintaining professional boundaries at all times.
- Reporting any concerns or suspicions of abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.
- Ensuring that interactions with children are appropriate and that physical contact is limited to what is necessary for therapeutic purposes and with clear consent.

5. Recruitment and Screening

Expressions Play Therapy ensures that:

- All staff and volunteers undergo thorough background checks, including Working with Children Checks (WWCC), prior to commencing work.
- References are checked to ensure suitability for working with children.
- Ongoing supervision and training are provided to ensure adherence to child safety standards.

6. Reporting and Responding to Child Safety Concerns

We have legal and moral responsibilities to Contact relevant authorities when we are concerned about a child's safety.

7. Child Safe Environment

Expressions Play Therapy will:

- Ensure that the clinic environment is physically safe and secure.
- Provide clear policies and procedures for staff and children about safe interactions and behaviour.
- Regularly review and update our safety practices to reflect current best practices and legal requirements.

8. Privacy and Confidentiality

All personal information and details related to child safety concerns will be handled with the utmost confidentiality, in accordance with relevant legislation. Information will only be shared with authorised individuals or agencies as required by law.

9. Training and Awareness

All staff, volunteers, and contractors at Expressions Play Therapy will:

- Participate in regular child safety training to stay informed about best practices and legal obligations.

10. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and effective. Feedback from staff, parents/guardians, and children will be sought to improve our child safety practices. Any necessary changes will be implemented promptly.

11. Contact Information

For any queries regarding this policy or to report a child safety concern, please contact us at info@expressionsplaytherapy.com.au

12. Acknowledgment

By engaging with our services, all parents/guardians, staff, and volunteers acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to adhere to this Child Safe Policy.

