

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

Parent and carer fact sheet | Primary Years: Years 3–5

What is the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum?

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) is a respectful relationships and child safety curriculum that teaches all children and young people they have the right to be safe and they can help themselves to be safe by talking to people they trust.

The KS:CPC is delivered by teachers to children and young people each year from Age 3 to Year 12. Teachers who deliver the curriculum complete training in its use. The KS:CPC fits primarily within the Health and Physical Education learning area of the Australian Curriculum but can be taught across multiple learning areas.



Why is child protection important?

The Department for Education has a legal responsibility to protect children and young people from abuse in its own settings and in the wider community. All children and young people have a right to:

- be treated with respect and to be protected from harm
- feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people
- understand as early as possible, what is meant by ‘feeling and being safe’
- the support of school based counsellors or designated staff in their education or care environment whose role includes being an advocate for their safety and wellbeing (*Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services Policy*, 2019).

What is included?

The KS:CPC is divided into four Focus Areas each covering a number of topics. For Years 3-5, these are:

1. The right to be safe <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beings safe▪ Warning signs▪ Risk-taking & emergencies	2. Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Rights & responsibilities▪ Identity & relationships▪ Power in relationships▪ Trust & networks
3. Recognising and reporting abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Privacy & the body▪ Recognising abuse▪ Cyber safety	4. Protective strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strategies for keeping safe▪ Network review & community support

How can I support my child with the KS:CPC?

- Provide relevant information about your child to their teacher that could assist with the delivery of the curriculum.
- Understand and reinforce the key messages of the KS:CPC. Refer to the information on the following page.

How can I find out more information about the KS:CPC?

- Speak to your child’s teacher or the preschool or school’s leadership staff.
- Go to the KS:CPC website for concept summaries and additional information: <http://tiny.cc/KSCPC-ParentCarerInfo>.

What support services and additional information are available?

- Child and Family Health: <http://cyh.com.au>
- Kids Helpline parent information: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents>
- National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service: <https://www.1800respect.org.au>
- Parenting SA (and Parent Easy Guides): <http://parenting.sa.gov.au>
- Raising children network: <http://raisingchildren.net.au>

Supporting your child | Primary Years: Years 3–5

Focus Area 1: Right to be safe

Support your child to:

- understand what being safe means and what makes a place safe, eg at home, at school, at the park, at the shops
- know what a warning sign might look and feel like, eg butterflies in stomach, heart beating fast, shivering, feeling sick, can't move
- understand what they can do if they experience warning signs, eg tell a trusted adult
- recognise safe and unsafe situations and risk-taking. Use a range of examples such as riding a bike, rollercoaster ride, being lost at the Royal Show, talking to unknown people
- understand what an emergency looks like and sounds like and know what they can do if an emergency occurs, eg tell a trusted adult, dial 000.

Focus Area 2: Relationships

Support your child to:

- understand that we all have rights, eg the right to be safe, the right to be cared for, the right to be listened to
- identify people that they can trust, including people that they do not know, eg police officer, shopkeeper
- be aware of their own identity and that everyone should be treated equally, fairly and with respect
- understand relationships with their family, friends and others, and safe ways to interact (if consensual and trusted), eg hug, kiss, shake hands, wave
- understand that personal power can be used positively and negatively, eg letting another child join in the game, not taking turns on the computer. Reinforce that some people who use their power negatively (such as people who abuse children), know that it is wrong
- recognise what bullying behaviour looks like and what to do if they or someone else is being bullied, eg tell the person to stop, walk away, talk to a trusted adult
- understand what tricks and bribes are, eg 'I'll give you \$5 if you carry my shopping bag to the car, I've lost my puppy and need you to help me find it, if you don't tell anyone I will give you more gifts'
- identify trusted people at home, in the family, at school and in the community. Include a support service such as Kids Helpline
- practise talking to the people on their trusted network and know how to get help if they need it.

Useful resources:

<http://tiny.cc/UNCRC-Simplified> | <http://tiny.cc/BullyStoppers-Parents> | <https://kidshelpline.com.au>

Focus Area 3: Recognising and reporting abuse

Support your child to:

- know and use the correct names for sexual body parts (see <http://tiny.cc/CallBodyPartsWhatTheyAre> for information)
- understand the difference between public and private, eg public – park, school, shops; private – toilet, personal information, our bodies
- understand that their whole body is private (including sexual body parts and the mouth) and no one has the right to touch them without their permission
- know the difference between safe and unsafe touching, eg safe – if two friends agree to hold hands or hug; unsafe – touching sexual body parts unless receiving medical treatment by a trusted adult, doctor or nurse
- know how to recognise abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, domestic and family violence), eg being hurt, seeing others being abused, being touched inappropriately, no food or clean clothes, family members hurting each other
- know the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, eg safe – surprise birthday present; unsafe – sexual touching, being threatened with punishment. If unsure, talk to a trusted adult
- understand how to use the internet safely and respectfully (under supervision) and what material is appropriate or inappropriate
- understand situations when taking and sharing photographs or digital images is inappropriate, eg the person has asked them to keep it a secret, they are asked to take their clothes off, the materials is offensive.

Useful resources:

<https://esafety.gov.au/iparent> | <https://www.1800respect.org.au>

Focus Area 4: Protective strategies

Support your child to:

- regularly review their trusted networks to ensure they include people that they know will listen to them and help them
- practise solving problems in a range of safe environments
- be assertive when necessary by using language such as 'No' or 'Stop, I don't like it when you...'
- be persistent, especially when seeking help (to keep asking for help until a trusted adult helps them)
- know about local support services and how to access them, eg Kids Helpline.

Useful resource:

<http://tiny.cc/BHC-Assertiveness>