**OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING STATEMENT**

* ***PREVENT, PROTECT and EMPOWER*** are the three guiding pillars for Sunshine Family Day Care and ensure an organizational culture that strives to continually improve and strengthen child safety to provide better futures for children and young people.
* As a child safe organization Sunshine Family Day Care is committed to supporting and providing environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard, their rights are upheld and their safety is paramount.
* Sunshine Family Day Care Service is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to comply with both the ***Victorian Child Safe Standards*** and the ***Reportable Conduct Scheme*** to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.
* Sunshine Family Day Care Service is committed to implementing and abiding by our ***Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy***based on Child Safe Standards in Victoria (2022), which accentuates our **ZERO** tolerance for child abuse and raising awareness about the importance of child safety in our service and the community.
* We are dedicated to protecting children from abuse and neglect and promote a child safe environment, maintaining children’s wellbeing. We adhere to our comprehensive ***Child Protection Policy***, standing by our mandatory reporting responsibilities to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.
* We work to ensure there is clear awareness between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour concerning adults and children. We require clear precincts between children and employees, volunteers and the community to maintain children’s safety.
* We are dedicated to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.
* We value diversity and **DO NOT TOLERATE** any discriminatory practices.
* We are committed to ongoing professional development for educators and staff to maintain their ability to distinguish and respond to situations of abuse and neglect, ensuring educators and staff are responsive to their responsibilities in keeping children safe.
* We work in collaboration with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and have confidence in educating children about their right to be safe. We believe in teaching children what to do if they feel unsafe and encouraging them to express their view and thoughts on matters that directly affect them.
* As Sunshine Family Day Care educators we listen to and empower children to act on any concerns, they or others may raise which is reflective in our policies and procedures in keeping children safe. The participation and empowerment of children and young people is imperative.
* Engaging children and listening to their views is crucial for ensuring they are involved in making decisions that impact their futures. Upholding their rights and valuing the contributions they make promotes their inclusion and safety.
* We value the input of and communicate regularly with families and guardians

**At Sunshine Family Day Care, we take our policy and legal responsibilities seriously, including:**

**Failure to disclose:** Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 have an obligation to report that information to the police

**Failure to protect:** People of authority in our service will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.

Any personnel who are **mandatory reporters** must comply with their duties.