



**CHILD SAFEGUARDING
STATEMENT**

**The Children's Lodge Montessori
New Road, Bandon, Co.Cork**

Tel. No.: 086-0128398

Checklist

Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement	Complete
Carry out the Risk Assessment	
List details of the service provided and management structure	
List principles to protect children from harm	
Appoint a Relevant Person	
Draw up a list of Mandated Persons	
Check you have all the required policies and procedures	
Amend your child protection and welfare reporting procedures, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>information on Mandated Persons and how they report</i> • <i>information from Children First, National Guidance, 2017</i> 	
Develop new procedures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appoint a relevant person</i> • <i>Draw up list of Mandated Persons</i> 	
Provide all staff and board members with information about their responsibilities under the Children First Act, 2015	
Include details on review and implementation	

Child Safeguarding Statement

NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

- The Children's Lodge Montessori School.
- We offer Sessional Pre-School Service, Montessori and Play Based

The Management Structure is:

- Owner/Supervisor/Child Protection/LINC Co-Ordinator – Sinead Brady
- Natasha Maddan (Manager), Stepha and Ann (Early Years Educators)

1. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- Our Service is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.
- Our service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, DCYA, 2017, *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure*, Tusla, 2018, and the *Children First Act 2015*.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** for Child Protection

DLP: Sinead Brady (DPL)	Deputy: Natasha Madden (Manager)
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2. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the Sinead Brady has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk

3. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As required by the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017* the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

- Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015
- A Relevant Person has been appointed
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- Confidentiality Policy
- Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees
- Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
- Recruitment Policy
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children

- Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training.
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
- Complaints Policy
- Policy for Managing Outings
- Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents
- Social Media Management Policy

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: Sinead Brady Date: 1/9/2018

Sinead Brady, The Children's Lodge, Owner/Supervisor/Child Protection/DPL

For further information on this Statement, contact: Sinead Brady 086-0128398

The Children's Lodge
Montessori School
 New Road, Bandon, Co.Cork.
 023-8844245

The Children's Lodge Montessori School Quality and Non-Discrimination Policy

Policy Statement:

The Children's Lodge does not exclude or otherwise discriminate against any person or child on the basis of race, colour, national origin, disability, sex or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. In case of questions concerning this policy, or in the event of a desire to file a complaint alleging violations of the above, please contact Sinead Brady, Supervisor, 023-8844245/086-2471820

- The service is clearly accessible for wheelchair users and all areas are clearly signed.
- All our practices and procedures work towards making a happy and safe environment for all children. We strive to meet all children's needs.
- Our school is inclusive and respectful of all children and if families have religious issues or concerns please feel welcome to discuss them with staff.
- We welcome families having an input in our policies.
- We are the link between home and school and we will do everything we can to work towards making you and child feel happy and well informed on your child's needs.
- Our staff will have access to information relating to racism, equality and diversity approaches in childcare.
- We have regular staff meetings to ensure all staff are well informed and up to date with all the children's needs.
- We promote in-house workshops as well as encouraging staff to go for training courses.
- We have created this policy with input from all our staff.
- Should an issue arise with discrimination or any form of bias from adults or children we will immediately investigate the issue. Sinead Brady is the person allocated to dealing with such matters. All parties will be interviewed and the matter will be resolved. A review of the issue will follow.
- A Cultural corner is promoted in the school. This corner has all the tools to help children understand we are all different, have different cultures and we all need to be respected for that.
- All adults and children are welcome in our school. We welcome all in terms of race, class, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, language, gender, disability, family status and members of the Travelling community.
- We will ensure that all feel welcome and feel part of our school.
- We work as a team in our school and all staff and management have knowledge of diversity, equality and anti-discrimination issues.
- We have agreement and commitment from all staff and management to address these issues throughout our daily activities.
- We work in accordance to the Childcare Regulation 2006, The National Children's Strategy diversity and equality guidelines for childcare providers 2006-2010, The UN Convention on the rights of the child 1989, The Diversity and Equality Guidelines for Childcare Providers 2006, Children First, The Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2004, ~~the~~ ^{Tacsa} ~~EE~~ County Childcare Committees and any other groups or bodies that will help us run a high quality childcare facility that will meet every one's needs.

- All parents and staff will be issued with copies of all policies and procedures and a copy will be kept on the premises for your perusal.
- All cultures will be promoted by celebrating certain holidays for example Chinese new year, 4th July, St. Patrick's Day etc. Parents will be informed in advance.
- We will respect parents who do not wish their child to be involved. We will ensure that the child will not be left out. Another staff member will do something equally as nice with that child for example if we are painting flags for St. Patrick's Day that child can paint the flag of their own country.
- All children rights will be acknowledged.
- All legislation will be followed and adhered to.

Should any person have any issues or concerns regarding the above policy please contact the person allocated to dealing with this Sinead Brady, 023-8844245/086-2471820. She will be happy to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

Updated August 2017
Reviewed SB 2/9/19

The Children's Lodge

Tips on how to stay Safe

1. Talk to your kids before a family outing. Make a rule that you must always be able to see them and they must always be able to see you. It may sound simple, but keep reminding them periodically, especially if you think they're getting restless.
2. Use the "two giant steps" rule -- your kids can never be more than two giant steps away from you. It's a fun and easy way for young children to remember not to wander away.
3. Teach your kids that if they ever become separated from you, they should look for a "safe stranger" for help. Some examples include a mom with kids or a cash register person. With older children, agree on a "meeting place" ahead of time, in case you become separated.
4. Tell your child never to leave the shopping centre or shop to go looking for you, no matter what anyone tells them. Remind your child that you would never leave until you are reunited.
5. Dress your child in brightly coloured clothes to make him easy to spot. Be sure to remember what they are wearing.
6. In busy places like airports or shopping centres, consider using a cute harness for toddlers who are prone to running off. There are lots of fun ones out there that look like a lion's tail or an elephant's trunk. Your child's safety is most important, so don't worry about what others think.
7. Establish the "check first" rule with older children. They must always check first with you before going anywhere in a public place, including another store, play area, or even the toilet.
8. Don't treat public facilities as a "convenient babysitter." Do not leave your children alone at video shops, movies, play areas, or other public places. Predators are known to look for unsupervised kids.
9. Always bring young children into the toilet with you. Look for well-lit bathrooms in high traffic areas, whenever possible.
10. Statistically, the men's toilet isn't the safest place for a child to use alone. If you feel comfortable letting your older child (at least 9 years old) use the men's toilet alone, stand outside the door and call in as your child enters, "I'm right out here if you need me." It's a clear signal to anyone who may be hanging around in there that there's a parent close by. Your child is less of a target if a potential predator thinks there's a chance he could be caught. If you think your child's taking too long, open the door and call in, "Is everything okay?" If you don't get an answer or are unsure, enter the toilet immediately to be sure your child is safe. (Informing your child that you'll be doing this will encourage him to answer you quickly and not linger!!)
11. Discuss age-appropriate safety issues with your child in a calm, non-fearful manner. Replace the word "strangers" with "tricky people." Let your child know that it isn't what people look like that makes them unsafe; it's what they ask a child to do that makes someone "thumbs down." Kids have been known to leave with a stranger because "he seemed nice" or "she didn't look like a stranger."
12. Make sure that your child knows your phone number. If they are not old enough to remember it have it written on their coat and make sure they know where to find.

