

REPORTING PROCESS FOR CHILD ABUSE

You see a child being abused, OR you observe signs of abuse in a child OR a child reports being abused.

RESPOND TO THE CHILD'S NEEDS

- Ensure the child is safe from immediate harm. Call the police if the child is in immediate danger.
- Attend to any physical or emotional distress in the child – take to hospital if appropriate.
- Listen to the child.

Are you a staff member?

IMMEDIATELY INFORM YOUR MANAGER

If the suspected abuser is your manager, Inform the service owner OR Chair of the governance group OR CYF on 0508 326 459 OR Police Child Abuse Team

PREPARE WRITTEN RECORD

Record

- Date, time and place of observation/reporting of abuse
- Names of anyone present
- What the child says - exactly
- Any physical or behavioural signs of abuse.

GIVE THIS TO YOUR MANAGER

Are you in charge?

CALL THE POLICE
IF THE CHILD IS
IN IMMEDIATE
DANGER

PERSON IN CHARGE

GATHER INFORMATION

Ensure you have a full report from the person who identified the abuse. Offer them support. Get them to sign the report. Tell them what actions you will take. Ring CYF (0508 326 459) or Plunketline (0800 933 92) and discuss your concerns. CYF will tell you if you need to do a formal report about your concerns.

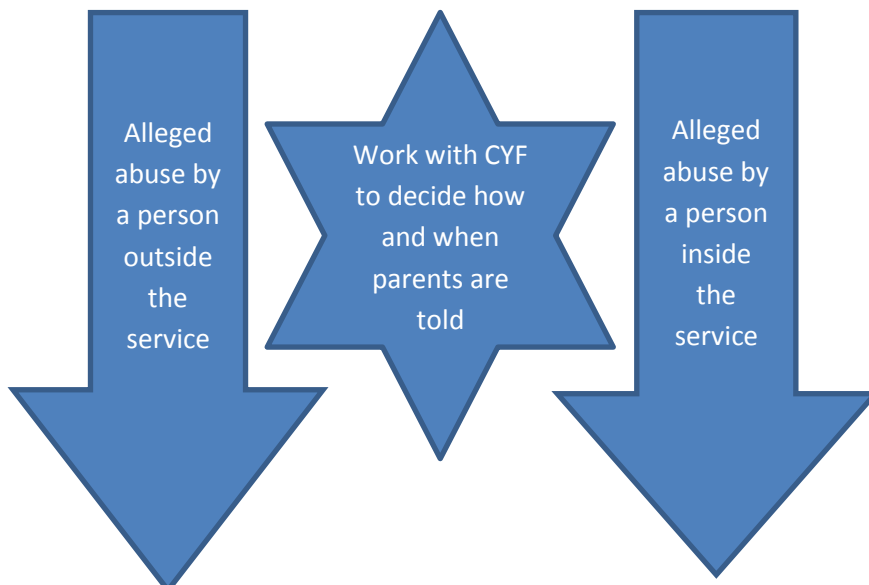
REPORT ABUSE

Ring CYF on 0508 326459 and tell them:

(If it is an emergency, ring the Police Child Abuse Team)

- your own name and contact details
- name of child/children (also known as/nicknames)
- date of birth (if known)
- ethnicity (if known)
- name of caregivers, parents and other family members and current living situation
- current legal custodians
- reasons why it is believed that the child has been abused
- other significant background information
- any concerns for your physical safety in making this notification.

ASK WHAT HAPPENS NEXT – get timeframe



OUTSIDESERVICE

- You are most likely to suspect the abuse is by a parent but you cannot assume this. If you are concerned about the child going home, tell CYF or the Police this.
- While the child is in your care, ensure the child is not at risk of being further abused.

INSIDE SERVICE

- Maintain close liaison with CYF/the police and discuss any actions you want to take with them first.
- Discuss with CYF/Police who will tell the suspected abuser of the allegation and whether the suspected abuser should remain on the ECS premises.*
- Recommend the suspected abuser seeks support from their union or lawyer.
- Ensure records are kept of any comments or event relating to the complaint(s) and /or allegations and follow-up action is taken and documented.
- Get employment/legal advice where appropriate.

ATTEND TO HEALING OF YOUR COMMUNITY

If there is disruption to the ECE service or community, negative impacts on other children and/or staff, or media interest contact

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAUMATIC INCIDENT COORDINATOR for support on 080084 8326

FINALLY! GET SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF

Notes

*If a centre manager or owner knows of alleged abuse and another incident occurs by the offender at the centre, the owner of the centre is liable for failing to provide a safe educational environment for the children.

1. What is child abuse?

Child abuse is defined in the Children Young Persons and their Families Act as “the harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person.”

2. Possible ECS situations

Abuse within an early childhood centre could be:

- Adult to adult
- Adult to child
- Child to child

This model addresses adult to child abuse. The police can be contacted where appropriate for adult to adult abuse. If one child is abusing another, it is often an indication that the abusing child has been abused. Treat this as an indicator and compile information about this child's behaviour over time to look for a pattern. Discuss with a CYF social worker or Plunketline

3. Getting advice

You can ring CYF and ask to discuss your concerns with a social worker without making a formal complaint.

You can also ring PlunketLine on 0800 933 922. PlunketLine is available 24 hours everyday of the year. All calls are answered by a Plunket Nurse-who is a registered nurse with a post grad qualification in Well Child Health. You can also make contact with your local Plunket Nurse.

4. Healing

If the suspected abuser is a staff member there will be concerns amongst parents, governance members, staff and children. Clear, timely, appropriate and accurate information is essential to stop rumours, to address people's concerns and to rebuild trust is essential.

5. More information

There is more information on this website. You can also go to www.cyf.govt.nz or talk to a local support agency.

The best thing to do is to form strong healthy relationships amongst your staff, parents and community to reduce child abuse. Ensure staff know how to recognise abuse and what to do about it. But more importantly, create an atmosphere where people can turn to you for support.

