

Questions to ask your child's Child-Care Centre & School

We all want to keep our kids safe especially when they are being cared for by others. Below is a checklist of questions you can ask of your child-care providers and schools. Please ask these questions because as caring, safe adults we need to be our children's voices in these spaces.



Child Protection & Policies

- 1. Is there a code of conduct for staff and other parents?
- 2. What checks are undertaken when employing staff and bringing in volunteers, including other parents?
- 3. Does the service have a specific approach to seeking references from recent employers?
- 4. Is there a clear complaints policy?
- 5. Do the staff know their obligations under mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse?
- 6. Do the staff know what procedures to follow if they suspect or know of an adult sexually abusing a child?

Supervision & Management

- 1. What is the ratio of child to adult?
- 2. Is a child ever left alone with an adult and out of view of others?
- 3. What are bathroom safety policies and supervision of younger children who need help with toileting?
- 4. Do staff feel fully supported by management to express concerns about a child or an adult's behaviours, including colleagues and other parents?

Staff Training & Awareness

- 1. Is training provided to staff about the tactics of perpetrators, such as grooming of a child for sexual abuse, current statistics, what to do if there is a disclosure, and reporting policies regarding peer-on-peer abuse?
- 2. Is there training on how to listen and act on children's expressions of concern and/or noticing red flags in children?
- 3. In Australia, do staff receive training in the National Child Safety Standards, and how often is this training reviewed and updated?
- 4. Do staff receive training in the language of body safety and consent and how to interact with children in a way that is respectful of the child's body autonomy?

Child Education & Empowerment

- 1. Do the children receive key body safety and consent skills?
- 2. Do parents have access to body safety and consent resources and presentations?

For information and resources on topics on body safety and consent please visit:
www.e2publishing.info

