



CHILD SAFE-GUARDING STATEMENT

1. Type of Service: Home-Start Creche is a Childcare service in accordance with the ChildCare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

The purpose of this service is to provide a part time & sessional day care facility for children aged 4 months to 6 years. This service is a Family Support Service with a respite creche ran by Home Start and managed by Ann Murray.

2. Principles

Protecting children and young people is everyone's responsibility. The welfare of the child is paramount to us. Therefore, we want to make sure that the children in the service are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with the staff and the students in this organisation by:

- Making sure that our staff, volunteers, and students are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- Having procedures to recognise, respond to and report concerns about children's protection and welfare.
- Making sure all staff are Garda vetted prior to engagement.
- Having clear codes of behaviour for management, staff, and students.
- Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents.
- Giving parents/guardians, children, and workers information about what we do and what to expect from us.
- Letting parents/guardians and children know how to voice their concerns or complaints if there is anything they are not happy about. Having a procedure to respond to these complaints.
- We have a clear reporting procedure to be followed should a staff member have a concern about a child with regard to *Children First (2017) and The Children First Act 2015*
- Having a procedure to respond to allegations of abuse and neglect against staff members.
- The Child and Adult Protection policy will be reviewed annually by the Management.





3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK
Child Abused within setting	Vetting in place to include garda vetting, police checks, validated references. No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel or visitors. Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse. Staff trained in child protection. DLP appointed. Mandated persons named and listed. Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged when children are not present as they are unvetted.
Inappropriate curriculum and activities	Curriculum Policy developed to be age and stage appropriate and is monitored by the Manager on on-going basis
Infection/illness	Infection Control Policy in place and followed, Illness Exclusion Policy in place and followed.
Lost child	Missing Child Policy in place and followed, Outing Policy in place and followed. Risk Assessments carried out, Critical Incident Plan in place. Parents/guardians gain access to the service by using the buzzer and being admitted by a member of staff.
Accidents and incidents	Safety Statement in place, Risk Assessments carried out following an accident and corrective action taken, Accident and Incident Policy in place and followed
Child not collected/	Collections Policy in place and followed, Emergency Collectors available, Parental Agreements & Permissions in place, Child Registration Form





Unauthorised collection and Access Rights	completed with emergency contacts and authorisations. Children are not released to unauthorised persons. Where there is a dispute between parents, we will seek legal clarification regarding access and may require copies of a court order If we have never met a parent and is not listed on the registration form, we may seek clarification of identity before engaging with the parent.
Child Self-Care, Dignity, Sexual Abuse	Toileting Policy in place and followed. Nappy Changing policy (if Applicable) in place. Sanitary Area suitable where child's privacy is maintained. Child and Adult Protection Policy.
Food Hygiene	Healthy Eating Policy in place and followed. Kitchen and Food Hygiene policy is in place and followed.
Staff Selection Procedure	Recruitment and Selection Policy, Garda Vetting Policy, Relevant validated References, Child and Adult Protection Policy, Risk Assessment of Disclosures on Garda Vetting forms completed.
Positive Behaviour Strategies for Staff and Volunteers	Managing Behaviour Policy in place and followed Positive strategies only used No Corporal punishment No isolation Professional assistance sought for very challenging behaviour
Vetting Staff, Volunteers, Students	Garda Vetting is sourced and verified before any staff member, volunteer or student starts work with us.
Accessing inappropriate online resources/unauthorised sharing of child images/information	Internet & Photographic/Recording Devices Policy: Parental Consent Forms completed. No images of children published externally or on social media. No mobile phones allowed in classrooms (parents/staff)





4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service *See Child and Adult Protection Policy*.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children *See Recruitment and Selection Policy, Garda Vetting Policy, Student and Volunteer Policy*.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm. *See Staff Training Policy, Child and Adult Protection Policy*.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla *Child and Adult Protection Policy*.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the relevant persons in the service who are Mandated Persons.
See Child and Adult Protection Policy APPENDIX 9
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person *See Child and Adult Protection Policy 'Designated Liaison Person'*
- Full and comprehensive Policies and Procedures, Safety Statement and Risk Assessments are periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every *twenty-four months* or as





soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Provider: **Home-Start**

Name:Ann Murray Service Manager. Tel: (085) 263 8474
Printed name of Relevant Person under the 'Children First Act 2015'.

Signature: Date.....



Directors: Annie Leddy, Georgina Neylon, Ted Leddy, Kelly Marie Woods

