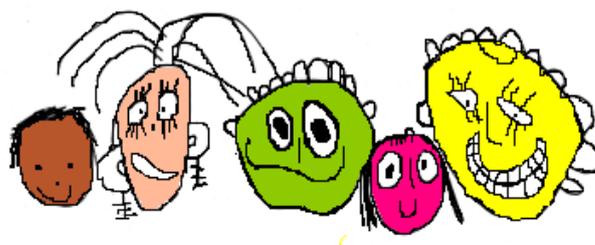


Hamilton Community Pre-School

"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."



Information Sheets for Parents

Child Protection

It is mandatory for educators at Hamilton Community Preschool to notify suspected abuse and neglect of children to the Department of Education and Communities. All educators have been trained in issues relating to child protection.

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 imposes an obligation on people who work in children's services to report any child who is 'at risk of significant harm'. If a person working in a children's service has 'reasonable grounds' to suspect a child is at risk of significant harm, and the reasonable grounds have arisen during the course of work at the children's services, that person must report the child's name and the details of the concerns to Community Services as soon as practicable. Reporting children at risk of significant harm is mandatory for staff at children's services, and it is a criminal offence to fail to make a report.

Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (the Act)* allow government agencies and non-government agencies who are 'prescribed bodies' to exchange information that relates to a child or young person's safety, welfare or wellbeing, whether or not the child or young person is known to the Department of Education and Communities, and whether or not the child or guardian consents to the information exchange. In these instances, the care and protection of the child supersedes rights to privacy.

This preschool has an extensive Child Protection Policy in place where

- children receive such care and protection as is necessary for their safety, welfare and wellbeing;
- children are free of violence and exploitation;
- children's health, developmental needs, spirituality, self-respect and dignity are fostered.

All HCP employees must ensure that all children in their care are safe whilst in attendance. All early childhood educators will be offered regular training on child protection.

It is important for parents to be aware and have read this policy.

More information regarding Child Protection can be found at www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au