

<b>Policy title</b>	<b>Kids/Youth Child Protection Policy</b>
<b>Policy area</b>	<b>Health and Safety / Academic</b>
<b>Policy available for Students – yes/no</b>	NO
<b>Policy detail</b>	<p><b>The Learning Connexion’s Responsibilities</b></p> <p>Maintaining the well-being and safety of children and young people undertaking study at TLC is a paramount goal of this organisation. This includes the prevention of child abuse.</p> <p>The interest and welfare of the child or young person will be the primary consideration when any action is taken about suspected abuse. This organisation supports the roles of statutory agencies (the Police and Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children) in the investigation of abuse and will report cases of suspected abuse to these agencies according to the process outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This organisation will maintain a good working relationship with the statutory agencies and be familiar with the laws which serve to protect children and young persons from abuse.</li> <li>● We will consult with these and other agencies who have specialist knowledge to help protect children from abuse.</li> <li>● Staff will not assume responsibility beyond the level of their experience and training.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting Abuse:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff and volunteers will be given induction training to know how to prevent, recognize, and report abuse.</li> <li>● Staff will only consult with or inform families about any suspected or actual abuse after consulting with the appropriate statutory agencies.</li> <li>● Staff will respond to suspected child abuse or any concerning behaviour by writing down observations, impressions and communications in a confidential register. This will be kept separate from programme diaries, daybooks communication books and enrolment information etc.</li> <li>● Information volunteered by a child should be fully and accurately recorded. No child should be interviewed or in any way questioned about the suspected abuse, particularly sexual abuse.</li> <li>● No staff member will act alone about suspected child abuse but will consult with the programme management.</li> <li>● Where staff and programme management suspect child abuse has occurred and a child is unsafe, programme management will promptly report the matter to the Police or Oranga Tamariki -</li> </ul>

Ministry for Children.

- Documentation on file will include an acknowledgement of receipt of notification from Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children and follow-up information.

**When an allegation of Abuse is Made Against a Staff Member:**

- Where it is suspected that the child abuse has been perpetrated by a staff member or other person assisting with the programme, the matter must be reported promptly to programme management.
- Under no circumstances should the child making the allegation be exposed to unnecessary risk. This may require programme management to contemplate removal of the employee or the child from the programme environment.

**Peer Abuse**

- This organisation will ensure that the safety of the child or young person is paramount and no form of physical, sexual or verbal harassment or violence from peers will be sanctioned or minimized in any way.
- While the situation is being evaluated, the children or young persons concerned may be separated to reduce contact with possible abusers.
- This organisation will make every effort to keep specific and identifying information as private as possible. Nothing will be passed onto the media from this organisation and caregivers will be asked to keep information private.
- If a child who previously abused a peer re-enrols into the programme, there will be communication with the management and staff about the risks involved.

**Supervision Guidelines**

*To minimise the risk of actual or alleged abuse in the programme these guidelines are in place.*

- All staff should examine the opportunities or possible situations there are for staff to be alone with children. This should be avoided wherever possible. If you are alone use extremely careful judgment.
- Wherever possible an open door policy for all spaces should be used (note - not possible for toilets). Staff should be aware of where all children are at all times and check to ensure that what they are doing is appropriate.
- Be aware of situations where children are out of sight together (dens, playhuts, leaving the classroom to wash hands, etc.) and

supervise accordingly.

- Visitors or staff who are not part of the programme should be monitored at all times by programme staff and should never be left alone with a child.
- Unless requested by children or parents there is no need to assist school aged children with toileting. If a situation arises which requires supervising staff to help children with toileting activities ensure that other staff know you are toileting a child/young person, and that parents are informed.
- Where a child or young person requires assistance, e.g. intellectually or physically disabled, if possible involve the parents/caregivers and outside agencies (such as Special Education Service) to assist. If this assistance is not available, ensure that the staff members are aware of the appropriate procedures when giving assistance.
- Staff should avoid transporting a child or young person on their own at all times, unless an emergency requires it.
- Except in an emergency, children and young people are not to be taken from the programme by others without written parental consent

#### **Employment of staff**

- Upon employment, applicants' work histories are thoroughly checked, including making contact with referees and previous employers.
- Applicants are made aware of our organisation applying for police vetting and sign a form of consent during the application process.

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#### **Related Procedures**

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**Date Created** Mar 2017

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**Review Dates** Oct 2019, June 2020, August 2021

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**Next review date** August 2022

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**Links**

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