





Recent insight released by the Australian Federal Police regarding Operation Tenterfield demonstrates the urgent need for child-facing organisations to provide stronger safeguards for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Naturally, parents and carers will be concerned in light of hearing these allegations, so what can your child's Early Learning Centre (ELC) or school do to help keep your children safe?


5 things you can ask your childcare centre...

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1 Does the school or ELC have a child protection policy?
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2 What child protection training do the staff and/or volunteers receive?
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3 What are the ratios of staff to children?
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4 Other than Working With Children Checks, what other methods do you use to assess the suitability of staff and volunteers?
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5 Does the ELC or school have a dedicated person to whom students, staff and parents can speak about concerns?



Other questions you could consider asking...

Did you know that you can ask your centre for a copy of their Child Protection and Reporting Harm Policy at any time?

About the environment:

- ☐ Are staff ever alone when attending to a child's personal needs?
- ☐ Are there any areas in the centre which are not visible to other staff?
- ☐ Do you have security cameras within your centre?
 - ☐ Has the centre considered if cameras cover all internal and external areas?
- ☐ What happens when there are external workers on site? This could include maintenance staff, photographers & visitors for extra curricular activities.
- ☐ Have you ever had an incident/complaint of suspected or confirmed child sexual abuse in this centre involving your staff?

About photography and privacy:

- ☐ What is the mobile phone policy for your centre, including the use of personal phones?
- ☐ Who takes the daily photos for parents? What is the training around this?
- ☐ What are the centre's social media and privacy policies?



For more information about what safety measures you should expect from your centre, visit bravehearts.com.au. To report a child safety issue contact your local police or make a report at accce.gov.au/report.

Bravehearts provides this information as a guide only to encourage discussions for the purpose of assisting to build child safe organisations.