

# Child safety in early education

## Reflective questions to guide your daily practice

1. Have I noticed any changes in a child's behaviour, emotional state or relationships today?
2. Am I actively observing for signs of harm or stress, not just guiding behaviour?
3. Is everyone on our team interacting with children in a respectful and professional way?
4. Have I seen or heard anything from a colleague that makes me uncomfortable or raises a concern?
5. Do I know what to do and who to speak to if I'm worried about a child or adult's behaviour?
6. Does my team feel safe to speak up if they have a concern, and do they know who they can speak with?
7. Have I documented observations clearly and factually when I've noticed a potential concern?
8. Are our child protection policies clearly understood, followed and discussed regularly and openly within our team?

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## Reflective questions

9. Do we have a clear policy that prevents adults, including educators and teachers, from being alone with children?
10. Am I modelling a child-safe culture through my language, interactions and professional boundaries?
11. Are there any areas in the service where a child and adult could be interacting without others seeing?
12. What opportunities do we offer children and young people to participate in your organisation at a level where they have input in decision-making?
13. What opportunities does our organisation offer to children and young people to provide feedback on their experience of our service and how do we act on this information?
14. How do our staff demonstrate they understand the importance of children's views and opinions?
15. How do we elicit the views of children of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds?
16. Are children given the skills so they are better able to understand their feelings and, if so, how does this occur?
17. How does our organisation encourage children to raise any concerns they have?
18. How do our policies reflect the importance of empowering children and young people?

Questions 12-18 sourced from: Office of the Children's Guardian, Child Safe Policy Handbook, p. 9, 2022.