

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Last updated 20th January 2026. Version 1.1.

1. Purpose

Speak for Yourself Speech & Language Pathology (SFYSLP) is committed to the safety, participation, and wellbeing of all children. This policy outlines our dedication to creating an environment where children feel respected, valued, and protected from harm.

Ensuring children are safe and heard is at the heart of our clinics work in helping children communicate.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all services provided by SFYSLP, including interactions with children, families, and educational institutions.

3. Legislation

The national and state legislation, National principles and the state Child Safe Standards must be followed to support the care and safety of children.

- Australian Privacy Principles
- Privacy Act 1988
- Family Law Act 1975
- Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (QLD)
- Child Protection Act 1999 (QLD)
- Human Rights Act 2019 (QLD)

4. Policy

SFYSLP is committed to the best interest of children and safeguarding by:

4.1 Safe environment

- Providing a safe environment free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Taking action to prioritise children's safety.
- Supporting the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and those from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- Ensure workplace health and safety risks are identified and resolved.
- Engaging children and family in the design of our services.
- Implementing policies and procedures to prevent harm.

4.2 Honouring children and their voices

- Treating children with respect and dignity.
- Valuing the views of children and encourage them to voice their concerns.
- Supporting the development of communication autonomy for all children we work with and listening to their chosen method of communication.
- Where children are unable to voice concerns due to communication difficulties, we
 - build skills to facilitate communicative autonomy.
 - develop tools and resources such as AAC to provide communication access.
 - support the attunement of communication partners to messages.
- We promote children's rights to participate in decisions affecting them.

4.3 Professional behaviour

- Maintain professional boundaries.
- Avoid any behaviour that could be seen as inappropriate.
- Sometimes there may be things required as part of care that may involve touch as part of our health care (for example, using touch to provide speech assessments, meeting sensory needs to support regulation, using communication methods like tactile sign). This touch may be beyond what a child may normally encounter with adults. We will
 - inform families if this is taking place.
 - seek consent from children as best as possible.
 - honour rejection consent from children, even if this means we are unable to complete some services.
 - honour any parental objections and explain alternative treatment options.

- Ensuring employees, volunteers, and other contractors who may come into contact with children
 - are appropriately screened.
 - undertake and maintain compliance checks.
 - are informed about relevant policies and procedures.
 - participate in a culture where safety of children is at the centre of our work.
 - demonstrate care for children and a positive attitude towards their safety.
 - are supported to meet safety requirements and expectations.
- Maintain confidentiality in line with privacy policy.
- Engaging with professional development to up skill in identifying and responding to signs of harm.

4.5 Responding

- Encouraging and responding to complaints and feedback.
- Providing accessible reporting mechanisms.
- Responding quickly to alleged harm.
- Report disclosures.
- Participating in mandatory reporting.
- Cooperation with authorities as required.

5. Responsibilities

Child safety is the responsibility of Sebastian Caon-Cook (owner), all staff, volunteers, contractors, parents and adults who engage with us. It is Sebastian's responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

6. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure it remains effective and relevant.