

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Montessori East is a [Child Safe Organisation](#), and children are at the heart of everything we do. The safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children is our priority.

We comply with the [Child Safe Standards](#) which are designed to ensure that organisations that work with children take steps to create a culture of child safety and protection for children from all forms of abuse.

Montessori East has zero tolerance for child abuse. All staff and volunteers working at Montessori East are responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

Everyone at Montessori East, including board directors, staff and volunteers, has a responsibility to protect children and create a child-safe culture. We are committed to ensuring children feel safe, empowered and are taken seriously if they raise concerns in relation to their safety and wellbeing.

We value the diversity of all children and families in our community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with additional needs and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Montessori East's commitment

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
5. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children feel safe and can openly discuss their feelings in a comfortable and supportive environment;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Disclose information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.