

Standard 3: Preventing harm to children

SUMMARY: PREVENTION AND GOOD PRACTICE

Good practice in planning a project for work involving children means, from the beginning:

- doing a risk assessment, and monitoring risk throughout the project
- identifying the people with designated protection responsibility
- effective recruitment, including appropriate vetting and checks of staff and volunteers
- knowing how to get in touch with local /national services, in case you have to report a concern to them.

Good practice in a physical environment where there is contact with children means:

- always ensuring that someone from the school/educational establishment, youth organisation or camp/care setting is present and therefore meeting their responsibility for ensuring the safety of those in the setting
- monitoring risks throughout the project.

Good practice in physical contact means:

- maintaining a safe and appropriate distance from children
- only touching children when it is absolutely necessary in relation to the particular activity
- seeking agreement of the child prior to any physical contact
- making sure you inform disabled children of any necessary physical contact and that they are comfortable with it.

Good practice in interpersonal dealings means:

- treating all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- always putting the welfare of each child first, before achieving goals
- building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empower children to share in the decision-making process
- giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- being an excellent role-model for dealings with other people
- recognising that disabled children may be even more vulnerable to abuse than other children.

Good practice in managing sensitive information means:

- having a policy and set of procedures for taking, using and storing photographs or images of children
- careful monitoring and use of internet-based materials and activities
- agreed procedures for reporting any suspicions or allegations of abuse
- ensuring confidentiality in order to protect rights and to include safe handling, storage and disposal of any information provided as part of the recruitment process.

Good practice in professional development means:

- keeping up-to-date with health and safety, and general child protection awareness
- being informed about legislation and policies for protection of children
- undertaking relevant development and training.

(Taken from NSPCC guidelines 2004)



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“All organisations should have a named person responsible for making sure the child protection policy is implemented and followed.”