

Child Safe Standard Six

Identifying and reducing or removing risks of child abuse

Talking Turtles Speech Pathology Pty Ltd acknowledges our duty of care to protect the children that are associated with our organisation.

Creating a child safe organisation begins with a clear, evidence-informed understanding of the potential risks to children in our setting.

Taking a preventative approach means identifying the potential risks in our organisation. These range from the impact of the physical environment and how it affects the continual supervision of staff and children, to staff recruitment practices.

Despite the implementation of best-practice approaches, risks always exist for children who access organisations. By adopting a risk management approach, Talking Turtles Speech Pathology Pty Ltd is acting in a preventative manner to reduce the likelihood of risks becoming realised.

Some of the key risks to children in organisational settings are outlined below:

Risks to children

Unintentional/accidental harm

- Poor physical environment leading to injury
- Poor supervision
- High-risk activity
- Lack of risk mitigation strategies in place

Physical abuse

- Physical punishment
- Pushing, shoving
- Punching, slapping, biting, kicking

Psychological abuse

- Bullying
- Threatening language
- Shaming
- Intentional ignoring and isolating (either face-to-face, online or via other technology)

Cultural abuse

- Lack of cultural respect
- Racial or cultural vilification or discrimination
- Lack of support to enable a child to be aware of and express their cultural identity

Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Not providing adequate nourishment
- Not providing adequate clothing or shelter
- Not meeting the specific physical or cognitive needs of children

Sexual abuse

- Sexual abuse, assault and exploitation
- Grooming
- Inappropriate touching
- Inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature (either face-to-face, online or via other technology)

Talking Turtles Speech Pathology Pty Ltd understands the importance of developing a risk management plan in order to assess, evaluate and manage potential problems within the organisation as a whole or within specific activities. [See attached risk management plan.](#)