Child Safe Standards – An overview for educators

Presenter:  Debbie Cole

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian early childhood services and schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

This information session will provide an overview of the Child Safe Standards and their implications for education and care services. Information provided will be in the context of existing requirements for early childhood services in Victoria. Areas of policy and practice that may need to be reviewed or changed will be highlighted.

Participants will have the opportunity to:
- Learn about the 7 Child Safe Standards and underlying principles
- Understand what the standards mean for educators everyday work
- Explore how to apply the standards to some tricky situations
- Identify areas of practice for review or change

Debbie Cole currently works as an early childhood trainer and consultant and regularly delivers professional support for Community Child Care. She is a qualified kindergarten teacher and has a number of early childhood qualifications, including a Master of Education. Debbie has extensive experience in children’s services, including management of the children’s program at Gowrie Victoria (Nth Carlton). She has also worked as a teacher and course coordinator at Swinburne University, which included extensive work on the development and delivery of course material for outside school hours care.

Suitable for:  Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services
Date:  Tuesday 7 March
Time:  7pm to 9pm
Venue:  Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost:  $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email:  childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Speak Up - Understanding child abuse and your response

Presenter: Child Wise

Speak Up is an innovative and unique training that aims to provide a greater awareness and understanding of child abuse. Adapted from Child Wise’s award winning programs, and supplemented by evidence from national and international research. Speak Up focuses on how to prevent, recognise and respond to instances of child abuse.

Topics:
- What is child abuse?
- What are the indicators of abuse?
- Offender behaviour and the ‘grooming’ process
- Prevention and risk management
- Reporting concerns

Learning outcomes:
- Talking to children about protective behaviours and personal safety.
- How to recognise the behavioural indicators of child abuse in children.
- Understanding how child sex offenders can target children and form special relationships with them.
- Reporting child abuse – HOW, WHY and WHAT is your responsibility

Child Wise is one of Australia’s leading not-for-profit child abuse prevention organisations. Established in 1991, Child Wise work to build awareness, deliver education and provide the tools to empower individuals and communities around Australia so they can actively prevent child abuse and exploitation.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services
Date: Tuesday 23 March
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Maroondah City Council Offices (see over for venue details)
Cost: $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Navigating the autism journey

Presenter: Kate Johnson
(Spectrum Journeys Inc)

You will learn about a parent’s perspective of navigating life with a child on the Spectrum, including an overview of what ASD can look like in the early childhood setting.

Learn strategies on collaborative communication with parents, embracing ASD within an education and care setting; and how you can positively support the journey towards a diagnosis.

This session will include strategies on anxiety, recognising anxious behaviours and responding in partnership with parents.

We will also look at building and refining referral processes to support children within your program who may be needing additional support.

You will be provided with information and links to free programs and resources to use in supporting students and the class as a whole.

Kate Johnson is the Founder and Director at Spectrum Journeys Inc, a not for profit Autism service equipping and empowering families and educators as they support children on the Autism Spectrum to flourish. Kate is a mum of 4, including her eldest on the Autism Spectrum, and has worked in Community Services for over 10 years.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services
Date: Thursday 27 April
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost: $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Behavour ‘management’ - Is children’s behaviour ours to manage?

Presenter: Sandi Phoenix

Discuss children’s behaviour in the contemporary education and care setting. Explore the reasons and functions that drive children’s behaviour as developing human beings using an analogy about filling cups based on the theoretical frameworks of Maslow and Glasser.

This workshop will evoke critical reflection and deep thinking around traditional ‘Behaviour Management’ practices. Educators will be challenged to re-think and re-frame the role of educators in supporting children’s emerging social competence.

Sandi Phoenix coaches and mentors educators from a strengths based perspective, informed by a comprehensive understanding of the NQF and underpinning theory. Sandi takes a positive approach to guiding expected behavioural choices within inclusive learning environments, following vast experience working with children who display complex behaviour.

In recent years Sandi has been involved in supporting educators and teams through individualised in-service PD, presenting at conferences, developing written resources, and consulting in the design of curriculum planning software. Currently, Sandi is studying a Master of Education while continuing to collaborate with educators and teams to support positive relationships and partnerships in the education and care sector through her work as Principal facilitator at Phoenix Support for Educators.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services
Date: Wednesday 3 May
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost: $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
The art of keeping your policies alive

Presenter: Debbie Cole

Are your service policies a practical and useful guide for staff? Do educators and other staff refer to them regularly? Does everyone know how to flag an issue that requires a policy review and update? Ensuring service policies are a current and workable tool for staff can be a challenge, which left too long soon becomes a mammoth task. This session aims to tackle this issue head on.

It will provide you with all the inspiration and practical tools necessary to implement a simple ongoing system to keep your policies current. The session will include a scan of current and emerging sector changes and issues that have implications for service policies.

Participants will have the opportunity to:
- Learn how to set up an ongoing process of policy review and update.
- Understand the steps of reviewing and updating policies.
- Develop strategies for engagement of families and staff in the review and implementation of policies.

Debbie Cole currently works as an early childhood trainer and consultant and regularly delivers professional support for Community Child Care. She is a qualified kindergarten teacher and has a number of early childhood qualifications, including a Master of Education. Debbie has extensive experience in children’s services, including management of the children’s program at Gowrie Victoria (Nth Carlton). She has also worked as a teacher and course coordinator at Swinburne University, which included extensive work on the development and delivery of course material for outside school hours care.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services

Date: Tuesday 9 May
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost: $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Using observation to understand the meaning behind children’s behaviour

Presenter: Glenda Grummet (KidsMatter Early Childhood)

KidsMatter Early Childhood is a mental health and wellbeing initiative. They use a range of tools to support educators’ understanding of how to identify early risk factors for children’s mental health and wellbeing. Understanding what children are feeling and thinking, how their behaviour impacts their social relationship and learning ability can assist us in providing targeted strategies to support an early intervention approach.

**Learning outcomes:**
- Identification of risk factors that impact children’s mental health and wellbeing.
- Unpacking through case study the meaning behind children’s internalising and externalising behaviours.

Glenda Grummet is the VIC facilitator for KidsMatter Early Childhood. Glenda has a wide range of experiences working with children, adults, families and educators in early childhood services, early intervention, disability and TAFE sectors. Since 2010 Glenda has been working with KidsMatter Early Childhood as Vic State Facilitator. Glenda is passionate about supporting educators and families growing understanding of how they can build and encourage children’s emerging strengths and potential for good mental health and wellbeing.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood services
Date: Wednesday 21 June
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost: $35


For more information please contact Cathie Wills on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Please arrive at 6.45pm to allow time to park, sign in & collect your certificate

Karralyka
Mines Rd
Ringwood
(Mel ref: 50:A7)