



Child Safe
Organisations
National Principles

Child Safe Organisations: Guide for parents and carers

As a parent or carer you will experience a range of organisations where your child will be cared for, play, learn, develop new skills and meet other children and adults. This Guide will help you think about how each organisation operates and its safety and wellbeing arrangements for children.

Children have a right to safety, emotionally and physically. Everyone has a role to play in keeping children safe from harm. Harm can take many forms such as accidental injury, exposure to physical hazards, bullying, neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Organisations providing services to or working with children, whether run by staff or volunteers, have a duty of care to keep children safe and to respect their rights.

This Guide suggests some areas to think about, look for and ask about as you make an assessment about whether an organisation is suitable for your child. The Guide is based on elements of a child safe organisation, as identified in the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. In particular, Principle 3 emphasises the importance of families and communities being informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Before you visit or join

It's a good idea to do some research on the organisation before you visit or join.

- **Contact them**
- **Visit their website**
- **Speak to other parents and carers**

Things to consider:

- Who runs the organisation and who is responsible for child safety and wellbeing? E.g. A director, management committee or volunteers.
- What are the ages of children involved in the organisation and how may this impact your child?
- Do you know other parents or carers who have been involved with the organisation and what their views are?
- How will the organisation meet your child's individual needs and circumstances? E.g. Disability or cultural needs.
- Is there a child safety and wellbeing policy, code of conduct, or rules of behaviour for staff, volunteers and children?
- Do the staff and volunteers have working with children or background checks?

