

RISK ASSESSMENT: Family Violence Support

Service Name: St Dunstan's Kindergarten

Date Completed: January 2026

Assessment Review Date: January 2029

Completed by: Nikki Samuel – Nominated Supervisor

1. Purpose

This risk assessment identifies potential risks related to family violence that may affect children aged 3–5 years, their families, and kindergarten staff. It outlines prevention, identification, and response strategies to ensure child safety, wellbeing, and compliance with child protection obligations.

2. Definition of Family Violence

Family violence includes any behaviour within a family or intimate relationship that is violent, threatening, coercive, or controlling, and causes a child or family member to feel fear or harm. This may include:

- Physical, emotional, or psychological abuse
- Verbal abuse and intimidation
- Exposure to violence between adults
- Neglect
- Financial or social control

Children may be directly harmed or indirectly affected by witnessing family violence.

3. Risk Identification

3.1 Risks to Children

- Emotional distress, anxiety, withdrawal, or aggression
- Developmental delays (speech, social, or emotional)
- Regression in toileting, sleep, or behaviour
- Increased risk of injury or neglect
- Difficulty forming secure attachments

3.2 Risks to Families

- Escalation of violence during kindergarten engagement
- Fear of disclosure due to stigma or safety concerns
- Limited access to support services

3.3 Risks to Staff and Service

- Staff uncertainty in identifying or responding to family violence
- Inadequate documentation or reporting
- Breaches of confidentiality
- Emotional impact or vicarious trauma for educators

4. Risk Indicators (Warning Signs)

Child Indicators

- Frequent unexplained injuries
- Extreme compliance, fearfulness, or aggression
- Disclosure through play, drawings, or language
- Poor attendance or frequent late pickups

Parent/Caregiver Indicators

- Signs of distress, fear, or controlling behaviour by another adult
- Reluctance to engage with staff
- Sudden changes in contact details or routines

5. Risk Level Assessment

Risk Area	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk
Emotional harm to child	High	High	High
Physical harm to child	Medium	High	High
Staff mismanagement of disclosure	Medium	Medium	Medium
Confidentiality breach	Low	High	Medium

6. Risk Control Measures

6.1 Prevention

- Clear family violence and child safety policies
- Staff training in trauma-informed practice
- Safe, inclusive, and predictable learning environment
- Strong relationships with families

6.2 Identification

- Regular observation and documentation of child wellbeing
- Use of approved wellbeing checklists
- Staff supervision and case discussions (maintaining confidentiality)

6.3 Response

- Follow mandatory reporting requirements
 - Immediate action if a child is at risk of harm
 - Clear internal reporting procedures
 - Maintain child-focused, non-judgemental communication
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7. Reporting and Escalation Procedures

- All staff must follow mandatory reporting laws relevant to their jurisdiction
 - Concerns must be documented factually and securely
 - Reports made to Child Protection or equivalent authority as required
 - Inform the kindergarten director or nominated supervisor
 - Do not promise confidentiality to children or families
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8. Support Strategies

For Children

- Provide emotional support and reassurance
- Maintain consistent routines
- Use trauma-informed teaching strategies

For Families

- Provide information about local family violence support services
- Offer referrals where appropriate
- Respect privacy and safety considerations

For Staff

- Access to debriefing and supervision
 - Employee wellbeing and support programs
 - Ongoing professional development
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9. Review and Monitoring

- Risk assessment reviewed annually or after a critical incident
 - Policies updated in line with legislation
 - Continuous improvement based on feedback and outcomes
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10. Responsibility

- Kindergarten Director / Approved Provider
 - All educators and staff share responsibility for child safety
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