



NATIONAL CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

ALIGNMENT WITH THE

CHILDKIND

12 BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES AND 30 KEY COMPETENCIES



Child Safe Standards with Best Practice Principles and ChildKind Key Competencies

The Child Safe Standards provide a framework aimed at creating safe environments for children by establishing a culture that prioritises their well-being and safety. This document outlines how these standards align with the Best Practice Principles and Key Competencies in the ChildKind Best Practice Framework, ensuring a comprehensive approach to supporting children and families.

Pillar One: Understand Me - Key Principles and Child Safe Standards Alignment

Best Practice Principle	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting This Principle
1. Embrace my uniqueness	Recognise and celebrate each child's unique identities, qualities, and traits.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
2. Consider my culture	Act in ways that respect each child's cultural and social experiences.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
3. Embed my lived experiences	Ensure that individual perspectives inform decision-making.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
4. Affirm my diversity	Challenge biases and understand diversity in needs and abilities.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.

Pillar Two: Support Me - Key Principles and Child Safe Standards Alignment

Best Practice Principle	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting This Principle
5. Establish my priorities with me	Align goals collaboratively with the child, family, and carers.	Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
6. Tailor my supports	Adapt supports to each child's unique context.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
7. Respond with understanding	Embed trauma-informed care within support practices.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
8. Uphold best practice	Align behaviours with best practice to respect rights and dignity.	Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.

Pillar Two: Enable Me - Key Principles and Child Safe Standards Alignment

Best Practice Principle	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Principle
9. Be an ally for my equity and justice	Advocate for children and connect them with allies.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
10. Collaborate with my team	Foster relationships to create a cohesive support network.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
11. Support me to be included	Enable interaction and participation in life and community.	Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
12. Build on my strengths	Focus on the abilities and potential of children and families.	Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.

Key Competencies under Each Way of Working

Observe and Respond

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
1.1 Detect	Stay informed on early signs of disabilities and methods for detection.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
1.2 Act	Provide early interventions and supports, regardless of diagnosis.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
1.3 Refer and Equip	Make appropriate referrals to nurture child development and equip families.	Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child focused.

Centre Me and My Family

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
2.1 Effective Communication	Ensure clear communication to address the needs of children and families.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
2.2 Trauma Informed and Responsive	Approach interactions with a trauma-informed mindset.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
2.3 Compassionate and Present	Be fully present and compassionate in interactions.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.

Promote Inclusion

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
3.1 Advocacy	Advocate for children and families to ensure their needs and rights are met.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
3.2 Honour CALD, First Nations & LGBTQIA+ Perspectives	Honor diverse cultural backgrounds and identities.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
3.3 Anti-Ableist and Neuro-Affirming Practice (NAP)	Embrace practices that affirm neurodiversity and combat ableism.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.

Individualise My Supports

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
4.1 Priority and Goal Setting	Set SMART goals to tailor support to the unique needs of each child and family.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
4.2 Ecological and Intersectional Approach	Consider all aspects of a child's environment and identity.	Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
4.3 Adaptive Practice	Adapt practices to meet unique needs, regularly reviewing and adjusting supports.	Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.

Embrace Evidence

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
5.1 Embrace best practice	Apply the best available evidence to support child development.	Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational
5.2 Research and innovation	Stay informed about the latest research in early childhood development.	Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
5.3 Early Childhood Development	Focus on practices that support early development with an understanding of milestones.	Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.

Be Agile

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
6.1 Monitor and Evaluate	Regularly review processes reflecting on adaptive practice outcomes.	Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
6.2 Understanding and Navigating Systems	Help families navigate systems affecting their lives.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
6.3 Risk Management	Be prepared to manage risks effectively.	Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child focused.

Collaborate with Others

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
7.1 Collaborative Practice	Work collaboratively with other professionals and stakeholders.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
7.2 Network and Community Development	Build networks to enhance support for children and families.	Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved.
7.3 Referrals and Other Support	Provide referrals and community support as needed.	Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child focused.

Learn and Grow

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
8.1 Lifelong Learning	Commit to continuous professional development.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education
8.2 Reflective Practice	Regularly reflect on practice to improve support for children and families.	Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.
8.3 Self Care	Prioritise self-care to maintain well-being and effectiveness.	Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.

Build My Capacity

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
9.1 Strengthening Capabilities	Focus on developing and strengthening the capabilities of children and families.	Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
9.2 Accessible Communication	Ensure that communication methods are accessible and understandable for all children and families.	Standard 3: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.
9.3 Peer and Community Support	Facilitate access to peer and community support to provide a network of assistance.	Standard 3: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.

Support My Transition

Key Competency	Description	Child Safe Standard(s) Supporting this Competency
10.1 Signal Transitions Early	Understand what transitions take place in a child's life and prepare the child and family early.	Standard 5: People working with children are suitable and supported.
10.2 Create a Plan	Design a flexible transition plan with the family as early as possible.	Standard 5: People working with children are suitable and supported.
10.3 Facilitate the Transition	Foster relationships with new team members and provide support during transitions.	Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child-focused.