

# **Pre-school Learning Alliance**

## **Children's Centre**

### **Procedures**

#### **CC6.0 Children's Rights and Entitlements Statement.**

#### **Being strong, resilient and listened to.**

##### **Introduction**

This statement underpins the policies and procedures within this manual – in particular those relating to safeguarding children. It is important that all staff working within the Alliance's services uphold and work with the principles and ethos within this statement.

#### **Endorsing and implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Pre School Learning Alliance services**

The Pre-school Learning Alliance supports the 54 Articles contained within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The Alliance recognises that these articles apply to children globally and draw attention to the disparity between and within countries and across regions of the world in the way that children receive and enjoy these basic rights. The Alliance supports organisations and statutory agencies to promote the recognition and achievement of children's rights to ensure a better experience for all children. We also work with organisations and agencies at local, national, European and international level to further this recognition and achievement.

#### **Our remit**

The Pre-school Learning Alliance's statement on Children's Rights and Entitlements sets out what it believes and what it can do to promote these in the services that it has to offer to early years provision comprising its membership as well as its directly managed provision.

#### **Every Child Matters and the five outcomes**

The Government's strategy on Every Child Matters sets out the five outcomes that all children have a basic and fundamental right to achieve. These are:

- Staying safe from harm
- Being healthy
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic success

The Alliance incorporates the intent of these outcomes across the breadth of its work through the provision of its services to children, families and communities, its policies and ethos, its training, quality assurance and publications.

## **Safeguarding children**

The Pre-school Learning Alliance aims to safeguard children in its direct service provision and member settings through the specific actions detailed in its safeguarding children policy that are based on the '**three key commitments**'

1. *The Alliance is committed to building a '**culture of safety**' in which children are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.*
2. *The Alliance is committed to **responding promptly and appropriately** to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' (HMG 2006)*
3. *The Alliance is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for adults. It is also committed to empowering young children, through its early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be **strong, resilient and listened to**.*

## **What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be '*strong, resilient and listened to*'.**

To be **strong** means to be

- **secure** in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on
- **safe and valued** as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school
- **self assured** and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage
- **included equally and belong** in early years settings and in community life
- **confident in abilities** and **proud** of their achievements
- **progressing optimally** in all aspects of their development and learning
- **to be part of a peer group** in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizen, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world
- **to participate and be able to represent themselves** in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be **resilient** means to

- **be sure** of their self worth and dignity
- be able to be **assertive** and state their needs effectively

- be able to **overcome** difficulties and problems
- **be positive** in their outlook on life
- be able to **cope** with challenge and change
- have a **sense of justice** towards self and others
- to develop a **sense of responsibility** towards self and others
- to be able to **represent** themselves and others in key decision making processes

To be **listened to** means:

- adults who are close to children recognise their need and **right to express and communicate** their thoughts, feelings and ideas
- adults who are close to children are able to **tune in** to their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated
- adults who are close to children are able to **respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding** of what children express and communicate
- adults **respect children's rights** and **facilitate children's participation and representation** in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of Alliance core services.

The Alliance incorporates the intent to **promote children's rights and entitlements to be 'strong, resilient and listened to'** across the breadth of its work through the provision of its services to children, families and communities, its policies and ethos, its training, quality assurance and publications.