

Child Safeguarding Statement



This document is developed to ensure compliance with the Children First Act, 2015, it has been adapted from Tusla template to suit the needs, size and particulars of FitKidzWithHeidi services.

Under the Children First Act, 2015 all pre-school services (including stand-alone afterschool services) as defined in the Childcare Act 1991 who employ one or more person are required to have a child safeguarding statement.

This Safeguarding Statement had been developed in line with Tusla guidance on the development of a safe guarding statement. <http://www.tusla.ie>

This Child Safeguarding Statement includes the service FitKidzWithHeidi.ie provide, the principles and procedures that are observed to ensure as far as practicable that a child while availing of the service is safe from 'harm' in line with Children First : National Guidance for child protection.

1. Name of service being provided:

FitKidzWith Heidi

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Involves a unique, holistic range of classes, online and outdoors filled with fitness, fun and creative activities whereby children build up their physical strength and agility, mental resilience and confidence

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Recruitment of staff	All recruited staff will be Garda vetted prior to starting. References will be verified Induction process is in place.
2	Staff members attending to children's personal care needs.	Staff inform other staff in advance that they are attending to child's needs.
3	Staff working in room alone with children.	Staff working alone work to ratio as set out to align with the school regulations. A management structure of checking into the area frequently is in place. Staff member have a means of contacting management or other staff when required. Staff member asks for assistance in relation to assisting children with personal care needs.
4	Parents visiting service	Parents who visit and stay with their child during transitions can only attend to their own child's needs. Parents will never be left alone with any other children except their own. If a parent is supporting their own child with toileting a staff member must be in attendance in the toilet area if other children are using the toilets.
5	Open days Gatherings with parents/families, SUCH AS Christmas, Graduation, Sports Day	Parents/Guardians must accompany their child during any open days. They must only attend to their own children's personal care needs. Staff members will be vigilant around security during open-days
6	Social Media and IT PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS	In line with our Social media and IT policy and procedure photos and videos of children in relation to observations and assessments are taken with FitKidsWithHeidi cameras/phones only and signed permission of parents/guardians. These photos cannot be used or shared by staff to anyone except parents without written permission. No faces of children can be used on any social media platform by staff or other parents. Community gatherings such as graduation parents are verbally informed and referred to written policy to ensure other children's photos are not shared. A conscious effort is made by all staff to communicate this policy to parents

		with English as an additional language. No staff member can use their own mobile device to record children's images/videos. External supports such as psychologists/SNA/Speech and Language etc are not permitted to use their own mobile phones either to voice record or video /photograph when providing a service without explicit permission from parents and management. Children are also to be consulted around any photos/videos taken.
7	Making sure the Voice of the child is heard	In recognition of children's rights children are to be consulted in all aspects in relate to self-care, photos, and support.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Heidi Love (Provider)

Heidi Ellen Love – Manager and Owner of FitKidz With Heidi

For queries,

please contact Heidi on 086 229 6602 or email heidi@fitkidz.ie,
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

See also www.fitkidzwithheidi.ie for our privacy policy and other related information.