



Connected Kiddos- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Aligned with the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (Qld), Queensland Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle

1. Our Commitment

Safety is not separate from connection.

At Connected Kiddos, children's emotional, physical and psychological safety is foundational to every therapy interaction.

Connected Kiddos has zero tolerance for child abuse or harm. Child safety is embedded in service delivery, professional judgement, boundaries, communication practices and governance systems.

Connected Kiddos operates in alignment with the **Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (Qld)**, the **Queensland Child Safe Standards**, and the **Universal Principle**, which upholds the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Child safety is not assumed. It is intentionally structured, documented and reviewed.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All therapy services delivered by Connected Kiddos
- Clinic-based sessions
- Home, school and community visits
- Telehealth services
- Digital communication (SMS, email, social media platforms)
- Any future students, contractors or group facilitators

Connected Kiddos is a sole trader practice.

Kristy Waugh holds responsibility for governance, implementation and review of this policy.

3. Children's Rights

Every child has the right to:

- Feel safe and respected
- Be listened to
- Say no to touch or interactions that feel uncomfortable
- Have their culture, identity and abilities respected
- Speak up about concerns

Children are supported in developmentally appropriate ways to understand these rights.

4. Embedding the Queensland Child Safe Standards

Connected Kiddos demonstrates compliance with the Queensland Child Safe Standards through the following:

4.1 Leadership and Culture

Child safety is prioritised in every professional decision. Safety considerations inform session structure, therapeutic methods, documentation and communication.

4.2 Children's Participation

Children are encouraged to express preferences, provide feedback and communicate concerns in ways that suit their developmental level.

4.3 Family and Community Engagement

Caregivers are actively involved in therapy planning and safety discussions. Transparency is prioritised.

4.4 Equity and Inclusion

Connected Kiddos provides an inclusive, neuro-affirming and respectful environment for children of all abilities, identities and backgrounds.

4.5 Cultural Safety – Universal Principle

Connected Kiddos acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and recognises that cultural identity is central to wellbeing.

Services are delivered in ways that:

- Respect cultural identity
- Avoid discrimination
- Support culturally safe practice
- Encourage consultation where appropriate

Connected Kiddos is committed to ongoing reflection and learning to strengthen culturally responsive practice.

4.6 Suitable and Supported Practice

Connected Kiddos maintains:

- A current Blue Card
- Professional membership with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)
- Ongoing professional development
- Regular clinical supervision

4.7 Safe Environments

Safety considerations inform:

- Physical therapy environments
- Home, school and community visits
- Digital communication practices
- Use of photography and video recording
- Occasional sessions where a child attends without a caregiver present

Professional boundaries are maintained at all times.

4.8 Complaints and Concerns

Children and families are encouraged to raise concerns.

Concerns may be raised:

- Directly with Connected Kiddos
- With the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- With Queensland Police
- With the Department of Child Safety

All child safety concerns are documented and responded to appropriately.

4.9 Continuous Improvement

Child safety practices are reviewed:

- Annually
 - When legislation changes
 - Following any significant child safety concern
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5. Reporting and Responding to Harm

If there is reasonable suspicion that a child is experiencing harm or is at risk of harm:

- Immediate safety will be prioritised
- The concern will be documented
- External authorities (Department of Child Safety and/or Queensland Police) may be contacted in accordance with legal and ethical obligations

Connected Kiddos does not independently investigate allegations where statutory authorities are required.

6. Digital Safety

Connected Kiddos uses SMS and social media platforms for administrative communication only.

- Direct messaging with children is not permitted
 - Communication occurs with caregivers unless clinically justified
 - Confidential information is not shared publicly
 - Digital records are stored securely
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7. Photography and Video Recording

Where recording is part of therapeutic practice:

- Informed consent is obtained
- Recording is used for therapeutic or professional supervision purposes only
- Files are stored in encrypted, password-protected systems
- Access is restricted
- Consent may be withdrawn at any time

8. Governance and Accountability

Responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of this policy rests with Kristy Waugh as Director of Connected Kiddos.

Connected Kiddos maintains internal procedures, risk assessment processes and documentation systems to support this policy.

9. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if required by legislative change or operational need.

Effective Date: 15 February 2026

Next Review: February 2027