

Protective Behaviours

Protective Behaviours is a preventative education program, adaptable for all age groups and is one of a number of strategies Coolbellup Learning Centre uses to develop a safe and supportive learning environment.

Protective Behaviours provides students with strategies to keep themselves safe and cope with situations which threaten their well-being and enables them to find the right sort of help.

Children with an intellectual disability are at the highest risk of sexual abuse and a high percentage are abused by someone known and trusted by them. Stranger danger is not enough.

<p>The Protective Behaviours Program is underpinned by two themes: <i>We all have the right to feel safe all the time.</i> <i>We can talk with someone about anything no matter what it is.</i></p>

Purpose

The Protective Behaviours Program aims to:

- Provide simple, practical skills and strategies to help keep students safe
- Assist students to identify and respond to situations in which they feel unsafe
- Enable students to recognize their early warning signs
- Encourage students to develop their communication, problem-solving and relationship skills
- Create an atmosphere where students can discuss sensitive issues, in non-threatening manner
- Assist students to increase their self-protection skills against all forms of abuse, assault and harassment
- Encourage students to recognise, network and report

Internal Beliefs of the Protective Behaviours Program

- We all have the right to feel safe at all times.
- Nothing is so awful that we can't talk with someone about it.
- Every individual has the same and equal rights as every other individual, regardless of gender, race, belief system or personal history. Children have the same human rights as adults.
- Every individual has the right to make his or her own choices, decisions and commitments.
- Each individual is responsible for his or her actions, feelings and beliefs.
- Every individual has the right to protection from those who would harm him or her.
- Responsibility and blame are not the same thing.
- Violence and abuse, in all their forms, are unacceptable. There are no excuses.
- Violence and abuse can be prevented. It is the individual's and the community's responsibility to prevent abuse and violence.
- Life can be an adventure. The choice is ours.