Child Safeguarding Policy

Objective

TrygFonden's Centre for Child Research is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of all children. We uphold a zero-tolerance approach to any form of child abuse, exploitation, neglect, or violence offline or online. This policy outlines the standards and expectations that guide safeguarding practices in all interactions involving the Centre for Child Research employees, partners, and representatives.

Definition

Child safeguarding refers to preventing, responding to, and addressing abuse, neglect, exploitation, or violence against children. A child is defined as any individual under the age of 18.

Scope

This policy applies to all Centre for Child Research employees – whether full-time, part-time, paid, unpaid, interns, volunteers, or trustees – as well as partners, contractors, consultants, agencies, and any individuals acting on behalf of the Centre for Child Research. It also applies to all children who are engaged through our programmes, partners, or digital platforms. The policy holds across all countries and contexts in which the Centre for Child Research operates.

Key Areas of Safeguarding

Safeguarding efforts aim to prevent and respond to physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, exploitation, and risks that occur both offline and online in relation to the centre's activities. This requires establishing appropriate policies, procedures, and practices to ensure protection and accountability. Child safeguarding, including digital safeguarding, includes handling children's data securely and adhering to Aarhus University's principles of research ethics and data protection.

Besides this safeguarding policy, the general duty to report child or youth neglect to the local municipality applies to all people in Denmark (Barnets lov § 135 https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2026/642).

Responsibilities

The Centre for Child Research leadership team is responsible for promoting and upholding the Child Safeguarding Policy and ensuring that employees are informed and compliant. All employees must safeguard children in all interactions, report concerns immediately and participate in required training.

Organisational responsibilities, including Centre for Child Research partners, include providing ongoing training, embedding contractual safeguarding requirements and ensuring effective systems for reporting and addressing incidents.

Prohibited Behaviour

At the Centre for Child Research, we do not accept the following behaviour:

- Physically harming or threatening a child
- Engaging in sexual activity or relationships with anyone under 18
- Developing exploitative or abusive relationships
- Using inappropriate, offensive, or abusive language
- Behaving in sexually provocative ways
- Condoning illegal, unsafe, or abusive behaviour
- Shaming, humiliating, or emotionally abusing children
- Neglecting a child, e.g. through inadequate care or supervision, or leaving a child in a dangerous situation
- Showing favouritism or discrimination
- Spending excessive unsupervised time alone with a child
- Exposing children to inappropriate or harmful digital content
- Engaging in private, unsupervised digital communication with children
- Sharing or creating inappropriate digital content involving children
- Using AI or other digital tools to create harmful, misleading, or abusive content involving children
- Commercial or other exploitation, e.g. conducting marketing that misleads children.

This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list. Employees, partners and other representatives should at all times avoid actions or behaviour, which may allow behaviour to be misrepresented, constitute poor practice or constitute potentially abusive behaviour.

Required Behaviour

At the Centre for Child Research, we expect the following behaviour:

- Treat children with dignity and respect
- Be friendly, supportive, and approachable
- Respect cultural norms and local expectations
- Listen attentively and take children's concerns seriously
- Ensure that activities are safe, positive, and inclusive
- Remain visible and easily identifiable during events

Reporting Concern

Any concerns or suspicions must be reported immediately to the relevant manager or to simon@ps.au.dk and, where appropriate, to national authorities.