

KEY ACTION AREA 3.1: Families participate in decisions affecting their child.

OVERVIEW

It is important that SSAs provide families with an opportunity to participate in decisions affecting their children and young people. This will assist your SSA in creating a positive child safe culture and child safe environments that create better outcomes for all children and young people.

SSAs need to firstly seek input from **all** parents and carers about how they would like to be involved in the SSA and identify how, in a practical sense, they can participate in the decisions affecting their child or young person. Families and carers are often best placed to advise about the needs and capacities of their children or young people and can inform your SSA about practices and environments that are safe for them. It is important as part of this, to actively engage with all families who are part of your SSA, and for the SSA to be responsive to their needs.

Everyone within your SSA needs to play a role in keeping children and young people safe. Therefore, not only is it important for your SSA to implement the National Principles to enable a safe environment for children and young people, it is also vital for your SSA to inform everyone, including parents and carers, about what steps it is taking to achieve safe environments and involve them in decisions that impact their children and young people. For example, your SSA can:

- Inform parents and carers that child safety is a priority for your SSA ([see Factsheet 1.1](#)).
- Outline your SSA rules and expectations for staff and/or volunteers, as well as for children and young people ([see Factsheet 1.4](#)) and provide them with an opportunity for input when documents are reviewed and developed.
- Inform parents and carers about how they can raise a concern or disclosure within your SSA ([see National Principles 6 resources](#)). This information can be shared through website links; newsletter articles; social media posts; informal and formal discussions; and information sessions. This not only informs parents and carers, but also supports them to discuss safety and wellbeing with their child or young person, which should be encouraged.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 3.1	SSAs discuss with parents, carers and families how they would like to be involved in the SSA.
	Staff and volunteers are responsive to the needs of all families.
	Parents and carers are encouraged and supported to talk to their children and young people about safety and wellbeing within the SSA.

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If you need support:

- > [Mental health community links](#)
- > [Reporting flowchart](#)

