

Child Protection Policy

Child-friendly version



CONCORDIA developed its own Child Protection Policy because it wants you to be safe and protected. It tells everybody how to work to respect your rights!



What Is CONCORDIA's Child Protection Policy?

- ▶ It includes rules to make sure that no harm happens to children, with and without intention!;
- ▶ It is called “policy” because everyone - employees, volunteers, partners and children – must respect what it is written inside, and if they do not do so, there are consequences;
- ▶ CONCORDIA wants to have well recruited and trained employees and volunteers to prevent any harm that can happen to you, to quickly understand something wrong happen to you and to react immediately;
- ▶ CONCORDIA recognises all of your rights, listens to you in its activities and communicates about you paying attention to your privacy and dignity;
- ▶ CONCORDIA wants that its staff and its children know how to report and respond to child abuse situations.

What Are My Rights?

- ▶ “Rights” are things every one of us should have or be able to do. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We are born with rights (independently of our gender, religion, ethnicity, social class, age, race, or other factors) and we cannot lose them. As I grow, I have more responsibility to make choices and exercise my rights.
- ▶ Protection is granted to us to ensure a happy and healthy development without fear of harm or exploitation.

Below are the main rights we have, but in the UN Child Rights Convention there are even more listed:

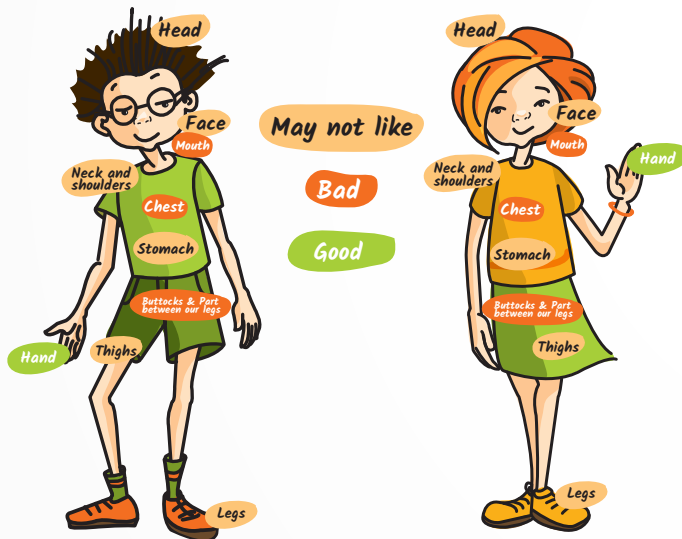


I also need to respect the rights of other children and to respect the adults, so that we can all live together happily!

The following part of this document is specifically relevant to your safety and protection! It is very important that you know to recognize the dangers, to avoid them and protect yourselves and to speak about uncomfortable situations with adults you trust.

How to recognize a “good touch” and a “bad touch”?

- ▶ The body parts we usually keep covered are our private parts and no one has the permission to touch you there. Even parents touch you there only if they are bathing or cleaning you when you are a young child, not otherwise.
- ▶ Good touch: It feels pleasant and good, it is a way to show care, love and help, like friendship hugs or holding your friend’s hands while playing.
- ▶ Bad touch: touches that make you uncomfortable, you feel unpleasant and want to stop it, for example when you feel hurt, if someone touches your private parts without a reason, or touches you and tells you not to tell anyone.



Source of the drawing: www.smartschooljunior.com

- ▶ If someone touches you in a way that you do not like, say NO and get away as far as you can, even it is another child!;
- ▶ Immediately call for help, go to your parent, educator, person of trust or to a trustworthy person nearby to you. You can scream for help if you do not have another person nearby.
- ▶ You do not have to feel bad, because you haven’t done anything wrong! The other person/the abuser is guilty, not you. The adults have to protect children and not to abuse them!

What are the different kinds of child abuse?

- ▶ **Physical Abuse** – when somebody is hitting, smacking, shaking, throwing, burning, biting etc. you;
If it happened and you broke a glass, you clutched your clothing, lost your pen, got a bad note or in any other situation, neither your parents nor anyone else is allowed to beat you or to cause you physical pain!
- ▶ **Sexual Abuse** – when somebody is forcing or seducing you to take part in sexual activities or to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. It could be also when you are touched or kissed or when you are involved in looking at pornographic materials.
- ▶ **Emotional abuse** – when someone upsets you or makes you feel bad. Nobody has the right to cause you emotional pain!
- ▶ **Neglect** – when you are not receiving warmth, good and enough meals, or clean clothing and appropriate to the season, size and age; when you are not taken to a doctor if you are sick or when you are not registered to school.
- ▶ **Child-to-child abuse** – when a bigger or stronger child hit you

Any form of abuse damages the child and violates his / her right to a happy childhood!



What other things you should do to stay safe?

- ▶ You must know your address, a telephone number of a trustworthy person you know, to be able to find always your way back home;
- ▶ If somebody addresses you bad words, you ignore them and go; imagine that you put these words in a trash bin in order not to be affected;
- ▶ Do not give details about you (name, address, situation, school etc) on social media or other online channels, even to register for different online games;
- ▶ Do not leave the location of your project/service/centre without telling to the responsible adult (educator, care-giver etc) about;
- ▶ Do not eat, drink or smoke what gives you an unknown person.

What you should expect from CONCORDIA's staff and from other children

- ▶ To be well cared
- ▶ To be understood
- ▶ To be treated well
- ▶ To be listen to
- ▶ To be in a safe relationship and environment



Code of conduct for children

DO:

- ▶ Be respectful with all staff, volunteers, visitors and other children in the organisation;
- ▶ Be cooperative and helpful with the other children;
- ▶ Learn and apply the good manners of living together with others;
- ▶ Accept each other differences;
- ▶ Take care of the goods and properties of the organization and make the best use of all available resources of the organisation;
- ▶ Be aware of and avoid involving in dangerous situation, including those that could appear using the internet or social media;
- ▶ Use clean and appropriate clothing for your age and the for the activities and situations you are in (e.g. the ones requested in school);
- ▶ Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations to you or others, anything that worries or concerns you to the national responsible for child protection or to your person of trust in your organisation;
- ▶ Help others to know and respect this code of conduct as well.

DON'T:

- ▶ Do not use bad language or misbehave with staff, volunteers and visitors;
- ▶ Do not make fun of, shout or beat another child;
- ▶ Do not bully or cyberbully other children, for example intimidating, threatening or ridicule them in front of others or using, mobile phones, internet and social media;
- ▶ Do not share photos or videos of other children without their permission;
- ▶ Do not post nasty comments or sensitive personal information online (of yourself and of others);
- ▶ Do not get involved in inappropriate or dangerous activities due to your entourage;
- ▶ Do not push others into something they do not want to do;
- ▶ Do not accept “bad /inappropriate touches” or other type of misbehaviour/abusive behaviour from anybody;
- ▶ Do not consume any addictive substances or any other type of substances which put your life in danger or are illegal.



What are the roles of National Focal Point for Child Protection and of Persons of Trust?

If you need to talk about your concerns in the frame of the activities you participate in the organization, you can always do that with Mrs./Mr. _____ who is responsible in all situations of violation of child's rights in the organization (National Focal Point for Child Protection). She/he will listen to you and will take the necessary measures to make you feel safe! You can trust her/him!

If Mrs./Mr. _____ is not nearby, then you can talk to your chosen Person of Trust. She/he will listen to you and will know what to do to help and support you!

Talk to Mrs./Mr. _____ or to your person of trust if:

- ▶ Somebody hurts you or touches you in a way you do not like or want!
- ▶ Somebody is making fun of you, ridicules you, threatens or intimidates you;
- ▶ Somebody gives you or forces you to consume alcohol, drugs, cigarettes or anything else that may affect your body or mind;
- ▶ You are receiving unkind messages on internet or your telephone.

Because violence is not permitted in CONCORDIA organization!

