



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT - January 2025

- Children may only attend this space upon provision of a fully complete form of authority from a parent/carer, including all such information as required by Neurodiversity Ireland.
  - Children must be brought to the space at Level 1 by ONE adult and it is requested that drop off and collections are done as quickly as possible, to avoid congestion at the entrance. If you need extra time with your child, please move further into the space and take your time there.
  - The space is managed by Tamara Lambert (0833948421), Jack Cairns (0833274250) and Meghan O'Rourke (0851194913).
  - In the event it is required, please contact Nessa Hill 00447725342731 or Susan Clarke (0872352958).
  - Our full child safeguarding policy is available on request from [info@neurodiversityireland.com](mailto:info@neurodiversityireland.com)
  - If your child requires assistance with toileting, this will be ensured by all adult supervisors.
  - If your child has a particular need, please specify this to the supervisor so that it can be accommodated. If you do not specify this need, Neurodiversity Ireland may be unable to ensure that it is met.
  - No visitors are permitted to this space during activities unless pre-booked with the Supervisor and are signed in and out.
  - At all times when children are present in the space, thumb-turn locks will be closed from the inside by adult supervisors and will be regularly checked during periods of such attendance.
- 1. Name of service being provided:** OT-led play groups, Afterschool Groups, STEM and Art Groups
  - 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** (*brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children*): We provide opportunities for neurodivergent children to meet each other, to engage in sensory fun led by OTs and to engage in messy play. We are a charity committed to the inclusion of neurodivergent children in everyday life and part of that is to provide the leisure and social opportunities currently lacking, with additional support from OT and additional needs assistants. We are committed to safeguarding children and invite you to view our full safeguarding statement on request.



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### 3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the main areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks and our full set of Risk Assessments is available on request from [info@neurodiversityireland.com](mailto:info@neurodiversityireland.com)

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Injury	Children are supervised at all times and instructed on safe use of equipment, proper ratio of adults to children enforced at all times and supervisors trained on health & safety arrangements and First Aid;
2	Dysregulation causing injury to self of others	All parents/carers must supply sufficient information to allow supervisors to understand fully the triggers for each child, each child will be supervised and afforded quiet space when it is noted that they might become or are becoming dysregulated, children will be monitored on a 1:1 ratio until they are ready to return to the space with others;
3	Escape from the space	Doors will have locks at adult only level which will be closed at all times when children are present, no visitors allowed without prior agreement by supervisors and signed in and out, proper ratio of adults to children and full disclosure by parent/carer of extent of flight risk to be made; where doors are not locked for any reason, adult to man door until they are locked;

### 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;



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- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

### 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1 April 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Neurodiversity Ireland, January 2025

For queries, please contact Nessa Hill ([nessa@neurodiversityireland.com](mailto:nessa@neurodiversityireland.com) or 00447725342731) Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.