

United Players of Vancouver: Child Protection Policy

Updated 15 Oct, '21

Policy Aims

The aim of the United Players' Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice in:

- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst working with United Players.
- Allowing individuals working for and with United Players to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

United Players believes that:

- The welfare of children is vital and that safety and welfare come first in all instances.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All those working for and with United Players have a responsibility to report concerns to the producer or president.

The following practices must always be followed:

- The Parent or Guardian must approve of the content of the play before the child is cast.
- Each child must have a designated adult or adults. A designated adult may be a parent or guardian or another individual, e.g. actor, ASM, approved by a parent or guardian. This approval must be accompanied by a permission letter, naming said approved individual and signed by a parent or guardian.
- All children and young people must at all times be accompanied in the room or dressing room by a parent or guardian or the designated adult. Should the parent or guardian be relying on the designated adult to be present, and should that designated adult be unable to attend, or not called for a rehearsal, then a substitute designated adult should take over, that substitute having already been approved by the parent or guardian in the manner outlined above.
- The Parent or Guardian must be informed immediately if a child is taken ill or injured.

The following practices are not acceptable. A volunteer should never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

Promoting Good Practice

United Players will encourage the following:

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoid private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment i.e. no secrets).
- Treating all young people equally, and with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with students (e.g. it is never appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child).
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust to empower children to share in the decision-making process.
- Making performing fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.

Ensuring that if any form of physical/manual support is required, it should be provided openly. Young people should always be consulted and their agreement gained.

- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people, always aiming to speak in a positive manner and remembering that building confidence and ensuring the child is having a positive experience is always the main aim.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

Guidelines for use of photographic filming

United Players does not allow any filming or photographing of a child to take place without the prior signed consent from the parent or guardian.

We do not allow parents to take photos of their children in shows, nor to make videos.