

# PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS PROGRAM

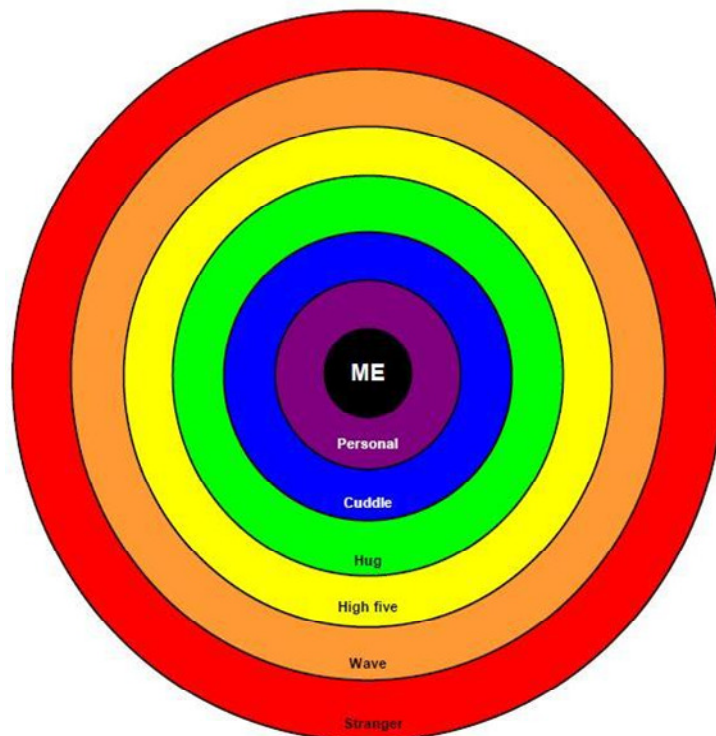
Teaching preventative strategies is a proactive way to strengthen your child's ability to live safely and to minimise risk. It is important children develop personal safety and resilience skills from a well presented and structured program.

For child abuse prevention programs to be of value they need to be taught over time and constantly reinforced.

*Protective Behaviours: Building skills for life* is a series of lessons which encourages the learning and development of skills for life in order for children to feel, be and keep safe. These lessons are revisited regularly until the school is confident the concepts have been integrated by your child to the best of their ability.

Children enter the classroom bringing with them experiences gained from their family, community, culture and place. They bring their diverse experiences, perspectives, expectations, knowledge and skills to their learning. Our teachers work with the children, to identify their progress with appropriating protective behaviours, and to deliver key concepts about safe living.

A visual concept development tool that the children are introduced to is the Protective Behaviours Concept Circle.



Your child is guided through the graduations of feelings and experiences that arise from contact with people in all walks of life. Emphasis is placed on giving voice to uncomfortable feelings and to communicating concerns.

To help parents and caregivers understand and support the child during this learning process the following description is provided about each of the colour circles. They are written for your child.

### **Personal space circle**

This is your personal and private space. No one should touch you unless you want to be touched and give permission. No one should EVER touch the private parts of your body (unless there is a really good reason, like going to the doctor). You should not ever touch someone else's private parts. We do not keep secrets about touching, always tell someone on your network.

### **Love, Hug circle**

Special people (like close family members or carers) who you love, who are close to you and you know really well, can come into this circle IF YOU WANT THEM TO. Any time you do not feel like a kiss, cuddle or squeeze, it is OK to say 'NO thanks' even if they are your mum or dad or carer.

### **Hug circle**

Extended family members and friends who you know well and like to be around can come into this circle for a hug IF YOU WANT THEM TO. Any time you do not feel like a hug it is OK to say 'NO thanks', even if it is someone from your family or a friend.

### **Handshake or High Five circle**

You might know these people, but not as well as people in your hug circle. They might be people that help you like teachers and coaches. You might feel comfortable and safe to give them a high five, a side hug or a handshake. If you do not want them to touch you say 'NO thanks' and move away.

### **Wave Circle**

You might know these people, but not as well as people in your hug circle or high five circle. They might be people like your neighbour or your postman. You might wave and say 'Hello' to these people but you do not usually give them a hug or touch them.

### **Stranger circle (do not touch circle)**

Stranger's are people you have never met before. You should not kiss, cuddle, squeeze or hug someone you have never met before. Sometimes you might need to ask a Stranger in a Uniform for help (like a police officer or shop assistant). This circle also corresponds to a person who you might know, but wouldn't want them to touch you at all.

*Protective Behaviours: Building skills for life* is a program for Health and Physical Education  
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