# Edgewood Preschool Cooperative

Educating and enriching the minds and spirits of Preschoolers and their Parents within a Cooperative Community

**Enrolled Child's Last Name:** _____
**Parent/Guardian's Last Name:** _____

## ICPC Child Protection Policy

**Definitions:**
(For the purpose of this statement only):
**Child abuse* means any form of intentional or negligent infliction of injury to the detriment of a child's physical or mental well being
**Sexual misconduct/abuse* means any form of sexual conduct that is unlawful
**Cooperative members* means any member as defined in the bylaws or standing rules or agent of any member
**Teacher* means any person employed by the cooperative
**Cooperative* means ICPC member cooperative preschools

**Statement of Purpose**
Each ICPC member preschool has numerous daily contacts with children. It is, therefore, important that all cooperative members, but especially teachers and participating parents who are responsible for the care of children, protect the rights and dignity of children and be alert to incidents of child abuse. Cooperative members who know of or suspect any incident of child abuse must comply with all applicable reporting or other requirements of state and local laws.

The cooperative takes immediate and decisive action on all accusations of child abuse or sexual misconduct in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**Policies:**
A. In cases involving allegations of child abuse of sexual misconduct by cooperative members, it is the policy of the cooperative to:
   1. Respond promptly to all allegations of abuse where there is reason to believe such abuse has occurred
   2. If such allegations are supported by sufficient evidence, relieve the alleged offender promptly of any duties
   3. Comply with the requirements of the law as regards reporting of the incident and cooperating with the investigation.

B. Child abuse under the law includes the following:
   1. Failure to provide a child with necessary food, shelter or medical care so as to cause physical or mental condition to be seriously impaired
   2. Causing physical injury
   3. Sexual abuse of a child
   4. Allowing a child to endanger her or his own health or the health of another.

C. This reporting law applies to all persons without exception.
D. Even if there is no evidence legally admissible in court, one must nevertheless make a report if there is reason to believe that abuse has occurred. "Reason to believe" means evidence that, if presented to individuals of similar background and training, would cause those individuals to believe that the child was abused or neglected.
E. One is not bound to report unreliable rumors or alleged abuse with "no reason to believe." In case of doubt, one should dialogue with the immediate supervisor or the local child protection service using a hypothetical situation. If one is advised to report, it should be done.
F. The reporting person is given legal immunity for making the report.

**Procedures:**
A. Mandate to report under Indiana State Law: Indiana law requires that when a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect it must be reported immediately to:
   1. The local child protection service
   2. A local law enforcement agency

B. Any individual who has reason to believe that abuse has occurred shall immediately notify one of the teachers or the President of the Cooperative.
C. Any individual who has reason to believe that a child has been subject to child abuse by any teacher must immediately make a report, by telephone or other means, to the President of the cooperative.
D. Upon notification, the teacher and/or President of the cooperative is then bound to report the incident or suspicion of an incident to the proper authorities. However, multiple reports are not necessary.
E. The teacher and/or the President shall inform the Executive Board of the report.
F. A report to the teacher and/or President does not relieve the individual from reporting child abuse as required by Indiana law.
G. Teachers and the President must familiarize themselves with the telephone numbers and procedures of the local child protection service. These should be obtained and kept on file.

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**INDIANA COUNCIL OF PRESCHOOL COOPERATIVES**
**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I, _____, have read the ICPC Child Protection Policy and
(print name)
agree to abide by the rules and procedures stated therein.

Name of school_____

Signature_____ Date_____