

Answer sheet 8: Child protection and parenting

13 August 2024

Requirements: Show the video on this topic from the Legal Aid WA website under Resources>What's the law.
For the pre-teaching activity, pieces of paper cut into the shape of a child (one for each group of three or four).

For the discussion activity, a board or large sheet of paper on which you have drawn circles to illustrate the layers of responsibility, from family, to extended family, to community, to the state. This activity could provide an opportunity to discuss how in Australia the state has a legal role in ensuring children are cared for.

Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: alone, beat, child protection, government, information, legal aid, obey, police, report, serious, danger.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Discussion: *What do children need to have a good life?*

Divide class into small groups, and give each group a piece of paper cut into the shape of a child. Ask students to write words or draw pictures to illustrate children's needs. Groups share their ideas with the class and teacher.

Key messages

1. The law says you can't beat your children.
2. Parents do have the right to teach their children how to behave and there are ways of doing that without hitting them. These include being calm, listening and talking to children, setting firm rules with consequences, taking away favourite things, and rewarding good behaviour.
3. You should not leave young children alone at home. This can be neglect. Neglect means not looking after children properly.
4. The child protection is a part of government required by law to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect and to see that children are safe and cared for.
5. Children can be removed from the home if they are at risk of immediate or serious harm.

Answers

Activity A

1. she had to go to work
2. at Susan's house
3. beat them
4. Susan, child care, friends, community
5. no

Activity B

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. a

Activity C

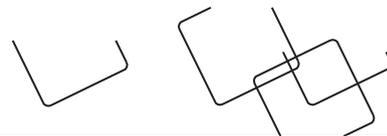
1. If you beat a child you will be reported to the police and child protection.
2. You can get more information on child protection from legal aid.
3. Child protection's job is to protect children from danger.
4. Children should not stay at home alone if they are too young.

Activity D

Discussion

Activity E

Check the last slide on the video for the best place to get free legal help.



Script for Child protection and parenting story

Meena I'm going to work now.

Children But mum it's the school holidays! We want to go to the movies.

Meena I know but I have to go to work.

Meena I'll be home at 4 o'clock. There's your lunch in the fridge. Be good, and DON'T go out or open the door to anyone. I'll call you from work.

Children Bye mummy.

Meena Meena! Mareem! What's happened?

Susan Hi Meena, don't worry the children are at my place. I saw them playing on the street.

Meena Oh no!

Susan It's ok. I took them to my place. They're watching TV.

Meena Oh sorry. I told them to stay inside – I will have to beat them to teach them to listen.

Susan I don't think that's a good idea. They're too young to understand Meena. If you hurt them, someone will report you to the police and child protection.

Meena But they're my children, it's not the government's business – or anyone else's!

Susan Child protection's job is to protect children. They will come if they think children are in serious danger.

Meena OK, OK, I won't beat them, but what can I do? I have to work. There's no one to stay with them. They must obey me and stay at home.

Susan Well that's another problem: the children are too young to stay alone. Child protection will look at that too.

Meena What can I do? I have to work.

Susan Well, I can look after them sometimes. Have you thought about child care? Can anyone else help you?

Meena Thanks Susan, it's so hard here in Australia. You know I've got no family here.

Susan Can you call some of your friends? Look, come in for a cup of tea and we can talk about it.