



Effective From	AY 2024/25 (Fall term)
Compliance From	AY 2025/26 (Fall term)

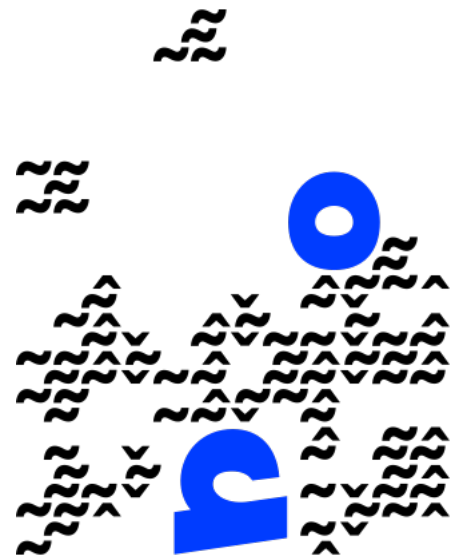
EARLY EDUCATION INSTITUTION **POLICY**

on

DUTY OF CARE

Purpose

This policy sets out appropriate standards of day-to-day duty of care practices that protect and safeguard children and provide them with appropriate learning experiences. It mandates Early Education Institutions (EEl)s to have a duty of care statement that demonstrates their commitment in this regard.



Definitions

Child	A person under the age of 4 years, as per Federal Decree Law No. (51) of 2022 Regulating Nurseries.
Duty of Care	The legal obligation of the EEI and its staff to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children in their care. This includes taking appropriate precautions to prevent accidents and injuries, ensuring that the environment is safe and suitable for children, and responding promptly to any incidents that occur. Duty of care at the EEI also includes providing appropriate supervision, support, and care for the children, and ensuring that the children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs are met.
Early Education Institutions (EEIs)	All ADEK-licensed institutions that offer early years service (e.g., nurseries).



Policy

All EEIs shall develop and implement a Duty of Care Statement that demonstrates their commitment to upholding the legal and ethical responsibilities entrusted in providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment for children in line with the provisions of Federal Decree Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights (Wadeema) (see [ADEK EEI Duty of Care Policy Guide](#) for a Duty of Care Statement sample).

The Duty of Care Statement must be built on the following foundational principles, which must be embedded in all EEI health and safety policies, procedures, and practices:

1. Complying with relevant legislation, standards, and policies
2. Prioritizing children’s physical and emotional wellbeing
3. Creating a safe and secure physical environment for children
4. Protecting children’s privacy
5. Promoting a healthy “risk culture”
6. Investing in staff guidance, training, and support
7. Involving and communicating with parents

These principles and the Duty of Care Statement must be clearly communicated to all parents, staff members, and other stakeholders.

Compliance

This policy shall be effective as of the start of the Academic Year 2024/25 (Fall term). EEIs are expected to be fully compliant with this policy by the start of the Academic Year 2025/26 (Fall term).

Failure to comply with this policy shall be subject to legal accountability and the penalties stipulated in accordance with the ADEK’s regulations, policies, and requirements, notwithstanding any other penalties imposed by Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments or any other relevant law. ADEK reserves the right to intervene if the EEI is found to be in violation of its obligations.

References

- Federal Decree Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights (Wadeema)
- Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments

Publication

2024 (September) ADEK_EEI_Child Pick-Up Authority Policy_v.1.0

Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi (ADEK)

This policy applies to Early Educational Institutions (EEI) in Abu Dhabi.