

SAFEspace

FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the Working With Children Check, see the *Parent and Carer information Guide*, or visit the Office of the Children's Guardian website at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check/apply

You can also call the Working With Children Check helpline on (02) 9286 7219 or email check@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

CHOOSING A PERSON

to work with your child



www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/safespace

PARENT & CARER FACTSHEET

SAFEspace

Working together to create safe environments for kids with disability



Parents and carers who receive funding from NDIS can choose to self-manage part or all of their child's funding. If you choose to self-manage you are able to employ workers directly to support your child without the need to go through an organisation that provides these services.

While this offers greater flexibility, it also places a greater responsibility on you to ensure that the person is safe and suitable to work with your child.

There are a number of things you can do to help you decide whether the person is suitable to work with your child.

- Verify that the person has a valid Working With Children Check. See the information sheet regarding the Working With Children Check for more information
- Ask the person for their resume and copies of their qualifications. When reviewing a person's resume, make sure to ask them about any gaps in their work history
- Ask the person to provide at least two referees, who can give you information about the person's skills and experiences in working with children and young people. Make sure that at least one of the referees is the person's most recent employer. You might also want to ask the person for contact details for other parents who have employed the person to work with their child
- Ask the person why they think they can meet your child's specific needs and provide examples of when they have worked with other children and young people with similar care needs

- Employ the person for a trial period so you have the chance to observe them working with your child

I have employed a person to work with my child. How can I help keep my child safe?

- Wherever possible, make sure you have a direct line of sight when your child is being toileted, bathed and dressed
- If your child spends time alone with the worker, conduct unannounced "spot checks"
- If your child spends time outside of the home with the worker, make sure you know where your child will be and what time they will be home
- Ask the worker to keep a log of the day and let you know of any problems that might have occurred
- Explain to your child that they have a right to be safe
- Talk to your child about their body and the proper names for body parts
- Talk to your child about who is allowed to touch them and under what circumstances
- Tell your child that it is ok to say 'no' to an adult if they feel uncomfortable
- Help your child identify five trusted adults that they can talk to if something is worrying them
- Explain to your child that they never have to keep secrets for adults, or secrets that make them feel sad or scared

