



RETREAT

UNSCCHOOLERS

FOXTON BEACH

THURSDAY, FEB 6TH- MON 10TH FEB, 2020

BRING IT ON!

Shared Understandings while at camp

Co-creation

- Co-creation means that we organise and run the camp collectively. This encourages trust, openness, flexibility, ease and self-responsibility.
- We value the contribution (seen and unseen) of all who choose to come to share in the weekend.
- You are encouraged to contribute to the camp in a way that fits the needs of you and your family: some people need to contribute to belong, some people need to belong to contribute. This may mean offering to teach a skill you are passionate about, facilitating a discussion you want to have or just being present.

Shared Understandings:

- This retreat is specifically for those that are currently unschooling/life learning or intending on doing so. Those that we invite beyond ourselves to be a part of the retreat will be those that fully support this. This creates a safe place, a sanctuary, for us all to relax, and rejuvenate from the world around us.
- We will respect ourselves, each other and the environment.
- There are times during the weekend that we will gather together to give out information relevant to the running of the camp. Out of respect for each other, we will try to be there on time and be available to participate as needed.
- We regard the Opening and Closing Circles, (meeting together in a circle-ish formation, taking turns to talk), as important elements in the weekend. Being at the Opening circle allows us to participate fully in the weekend right from the start and allows new people to be properly introduced. The Closing circle provides us with a chance to reflect on the weekend together before we head off separately into our individual lives; it leaves the weekend with a feeling of completeness. We will do our best to get to these.
- In respect to the limitations that come with having dietary restrictions, we will endeavour to label shared food and people with dietary restrictions will be invited to serve themselves first.
- We trust that people will take responsibility for their share of paying for the weekend.

Every child has the right to be safe from emotional and physical harm

We want to be a community that offers support to all families whose children who may find camp environments challenging. We will endeavour to approach all parents with an attitude of non judgement, simply offering support. We promote the safety of all children in their play. We will create a culture of consent at camps through empowering children with the words "Stop always means stop".

We do this by introducing it at all camp welcome circles, engaging with it always if we hear campers not sticking to it, and helping our own children role play and interact with saying the words.

We reinforce it through the introduction of some camp activities and stories/ games around the word STOP and, by choosing to be adults that are true to our own personal boundaries and are not afraid of saying all the "stops" we need to say in our lives!

If a situation arises we will check in with the children involved to query:

- 'if they are enjoying the play/do they like that', and 'if they feel safe.'

If the answer is no, or the situation is already jeopardizing another's safety, we support taking the following steps:

1. Intervene immediately if it is a safety issue or you hear a child saying "stop" to no effect
2. Start with a mindset of empathy, seeing each child in the best light, consider there may be possible neurological differences at play.
3. It is helpful for one adult to stand with or kneel beside each child as support, encourage them to share what's going on for them.
4. **In the case of all children wanting immediate ongoing play**, encourage ideas of how to resolve the situation together, acknowledge feelings. Stick with it until resolved. OR
5. **To restore relationship at a later date instead**, make an agreement of when you will meet again to discuss it further. Then each move away and seek the camp safety support people to support the upcoming discussion.
6. Let parents know what unfolded, if they were not informed already, so they can bring in some follow up of agreement made around safety
7. At the discussion make a co-created agreement about how this situation could have unfolded more positively
8. Practise the new scenario.

Every child has the right to be safe from sexual abuse.

In NZ one in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 16. It doesn't have to be this way! We want to change the culture, and that means bringing some awareness even to our beautiful places like camp.

Here is some things for you to consider:

Camp Culture

- Stop ALWAYS means stop. It's a powerful word and if someone says it, even whilst laughing or having fun, we always respect it.
- Avoid situations where a single adult (non parent/ care giver/ designated adult) is alone with a child in a tent/ room/ toilet. Call another adult in to be present.
- Parents, if heading to bed make sure there is an explicitly designated adult to care for your child if they want to stay up - make sure your child, and the adult, knows who they are.
- Children, if you feel uncomfortable with anyone or in any situation find your parent or a safe adult.

Family Culture:

- Stop ALWAYS means stop. It's a powerful word and if someone says it, even whilst laughing or having fun, we always respect it.
- Consider using the proper names for our body parts, this has been shown to be really helpful in sexual abuse prevention.
- No secrets - secrets nurture a culture where predators thrive. Opt for surprise (which are always revealed in the end) instead of secrets. Encourage a telling environment. You can use birthday parties as an example of a good surprise and help them understand that a good surprise is something everyone will find out about soon. Let them know that they should never have to keep a secret about touching or about anything that makes them feel scared.
- No touching each other in places where their togs normally go.
- Always trust your instincts around people or situations. If you feel uncomfortable find your parent or a safe adult.
- Check in with your kids throughout camp, ask if they feel safe.

Touching Rules....

- **Wherever there are children, we use 'The 3 touching rules for private parts':**
- **It's OK to touch your own;**
- **It's Not OK to touch someone else's; and**
- **It's Not OK for someone else to touch yours**

Talk to children about 'yes' touches (those that make them feel safe, good and that they can tell anyone about) and 'no' touches (those that make them feel confused, overwhelmed, unhappy or that someone asks them to keep a secret). 'Yes' touches can make you feel happy like cuddling the cat or your favourite soft toy. 'No' touch can make you uncomfortable, like pinches or getting hit. Explain that some touching can have both a 'yes' and a 'no' feeling like when you swing too high on a swing or are tickled for too long. Let them know that if they ever get **any** kind of a 'no' feeling from something someone does, that you would like to know and that they will not get into trouble for telling you about it.

What to do

If you witness anything that gives you concern:

- 1- intervene immediately
- 2- report immediately to the camp organising team
- 3- Perpetrator will be asked to leave, camp meeting will be called and all necessary follow up will be commenced with police, other NZ unschooling camps and communities and families involved.