



**NATURE TRUST**  
leading towards a better future

# Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

NATURE TRUST's Comprehensive Policy to Ensure the Safety and Well-being of all Children



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[www.naturetrust.org.in](http://www.naturetrust.org.in)

Approved By:  
Board of Trustees

# Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

## Introduction & Constitutional Mandate

Nature Trust is committed to the "Best Interests of the Child" as enshrined in the **Constitution of India** and the **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children (2021)**. This policy aligns with:

- **Article 15(3):** Enabling special provisions for children.
- **Article 21A:** Right to free and compulsory education (6-14 years).
- **Article 24:** Prohibition of child labor in hazardous employments.
- **Article 39(e) & (f):** Protecting the tender age of children from abuse and ensuring they develop in conditions of freedom and dignity.

## Alignment with Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children (2021)

Nature Trust adopts the TN State Policy's vision of **holistic development** and "Leave No One Behind." Our focus on children with disabilities (Cerebral Palsy, etc.) specifically addresses the State's mandate for **Inclusive Care** and **Early Intervention**.

## Core Objectives

- **Safety in Therapy:** Ensuring a safe environment during "Drama Therapy" sessions.
- **Inclusive Education:** Providing "Quality Education" that integrates traditional lifestyle practices without discrimination (**Article 14**).
- **Protection from Abuse:** Zero tolerance for physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, adhering to the **POCSO Act, 2012** and the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**.

## Code of Conduct for Staff & Volunteers

All representatives of Nature Trust must:

- **Respect Dignity:** Treat every child with respect, regardless of disability, gender, or caste.
- **Safe Interaction:** Never be alone with a child in a closed space. All therapy and skill-building must be done in observable settings.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Avoid any form of inappropriate touch or language. Physical contact is limited only to what is necessary for therapeutic movement.
- **Privacy & Data:** Protect the privacy of children. No photos or videos shall be shared on social media without explicit written consent from parents/guardians.

## Specialized Safeguards

- **Sensory Safety:** Facilitators must be trained to recognize signs of distress in children with disabilities who may be non-verbal.
- **Health Awareness:** School programs will prioritize teaching children about "Good Touch/Bad Touch" and self-protection.

- **Nutritional Safety:** All "Natural Lifestyle" and diet programs must respect the child's medical requirements and parent-approved diet charts.

## **Reporting & Redressal Mechanism**

- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Nature Trust maintains a committee to handle any grievances related to child safety.
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Any suspected abuse must be reported to the **Childline (1098)** or the local **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)** in accordance with the laws of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- **Confidentiality:** The identity of the child and the reporter will be kept strictly confidential to prevent stigmatization.

## **Recruitment & Training**

- **Screening:** Background checks and self-declarations are mandatory for all employees working with children.
- **Orientation:** Regular training on the **POCSO Act** and the **Tamil Nadu Child Rights** framework is provided to all staff and volunteers.

## **Declaration of Commitment**

We, the Trustees of **Nature Trust**, pledge to uphold the rights and safety of every child under our care as per the sovereign laws of India and the welfare policies of the Government of Tamil Nadu.



**Managing Trustee:**R. Abirami

**Date:**01.02.2026