



IMMANUEL Gawler

A strong future through Christ

A primary school of the Lutheran Church of Australia

CHILDHOOD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: A GUIDE TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN

At Immanuel Gawler we are committed to keeping children safe and providing programs and information that support students, teacher and families through the many changes and challenges that may occur as children grow and develop.

During a child's growth and development they become aware of and develop new understandings about their bodies and gender at each different stage.

Best outcomes are when home and school (church too) work together to support and teach children about healthy awareness of their changing body. From time to time concerning behaviours are brought to our attention either as teachers or in our parenting. Questions and concerning behaviours might be quite different in the early years to those in the adolescent years.

At school we have government guidelines to inform us regarding appropriate responses to the children in our care should there be a concern.

For your interest here are the links:

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/childprotection/legislationPolicies/?reFlag=1>

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/RespondingtoProblemSexual.pdf>

Parents can also find helpful guidelines on Michael Grose Parenting Ideas website:

http://www.gihs.sa.edu.au/_files/f/9169/INSIGHTS_education_needed_on_xting.pdf

and via Parenting SA website:

<http://resources.news.com.au/files/2010/09/18/1225925/886347-an-children-sexual-flie.pdf>

Please find these documents attached. We will also provide them on our website.

Our school is currently considering using the kids matter framework as part of our health and well being program. This includes a strong parent component and so you may also be interested in investigating that web site.

<http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au>

Growing healthy minds. Childhood is a crucial time for growing healthy minds. All children need care and support to develop and learn.

Care with Internet and social network use is also important. A recent guide to parents that I thought simple yet confronting went something like this: "if you wouldn't let a stranger into your child's bedroom for the evening, why would you allow Internet access into your child's bedroom for the evening?"

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au>

This scenario is worth thinking through as you make sensible decisions at home that are age appropriate.

We hope this guide is helpful as we work together to provide support to the children and families in our care.



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