

ANNEX: LIKELY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is the mandatory implementation of CCTV cameras in preschools due to the recent incidents on child safety?

No. ECDA has planned this move for the preschool sector since last year as part of our regular review of security and safety measures in the early childhood sector. This decision is taken after taking in views from parents, educators and operators.

2. Can parents ask to view CCTV footage?

Parents may put in a request to the preschool to view CCTV footage specific to their concern/issue. We encourage parents to discuss the request with the preschool and assess if it is necessary to view the CCTV footage for the issue to be resolved.

Recorded footage should be viewed only after the preschool has viewed it as part of its own investigation, and provided that the incident is not under investigation by ECDA and/or any enforcement agency. It should only be viewed for the purposes of:

- Providing an objective reference point to clarify an incident which might have compromised the child's safety, e.g. in cases where a member of staff is alleged to have mis-handled a child.
- Assisting in the investigation of incidents such as injury (to children or staff), damage or loss of preschool property.

Preschools can turn down a parent's request if it is unreasonable. In instances where access is given, safeguards must be in place to ensure the privacy and safety of other staff and children within the CCTV footage.

3. Aside from the mandatory implementation of CCTVs, what are the other measures and safeguards in place to provide a safe and secure environment for children?

To ensure the safety and well-being of children in preschools, ECDA ensures that all educators are trained on child-safe practices before deployment. These include appropriate child management strategies, as well as practices prohibited under the Early Childhood Development Centres' Regulations. The prohibited practices include corporal punishment, giving the child harsh, humiliating, belittling or degrading response of any kind, neglecting the child, and force-feeding the child. The full list of prohibited practices can be found in Regulation 33, ECDCR; <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/SL-Supp/S890-2018/Published/20181228?DocDate=2018122>.

Preschools are also required to put in place practices and processes to ensure their educators use developmentally appropriate methods to interact with children.

Centre leaders are also expected to carry out regular observations of staff-child interaction and communicate clear guidelines on appropriate child management to staff. They should also provide timely feedback to staff on concerns regarding their management of children and intervene where necessary. All preschool operators and staff are also required to report to ECDA if there is reasonable cause to suspect child abuse, or to suspect wilful or unreasonable failure to report such occurrences to ECDA.

To check preschools' compliance with regulatory requirements, ECDA conducts regular unannounced visits. When ECDA receives feedback on suspected child mismanagement, investigations will be initiated promptly. Immediate actions will be taken if the allegations are substantiated.