



Yiyili Aboriginal Community School

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS AND ABUSE PREVENTION

YACS is committed to curriculum in the school covering comprehensive, realistic and age appropriate personal safety, which enables students to recognize and report abuse, understand power in relationships, and develop protective strategies, including seeking help.

YACS is proactive in sourcing curriculum that assists with child protection. Three important programs of note that YACS implements are:

Safe4Kids: <http://www.safe4kids.com.au/>

Safe4Kids is a Western Australian organization which specializes in child protection education. The distinctive programs delivered are specifically designed as a preventative measure to combat child abuse by providing children with clear messages regarding inappropriate behaviour. This allows them to identify unsafe situations and seek help immediately – and persist in seeking help until they feel safe again. This educational approach emphasizes that should anyone suffer unwanted touching, it isn't the recipient's fault, and that they have the right to have this situation dealt with. In many circumstances protective behaviours is introduced to children after a critical incident has occurred, and whilst these important life skills are valuable for all children at all times, the strength of protective behaviours lies in empowering the children themselves to be proactive about their own safety before a crisis develops.

Aussie Optimism: <http://www.aussieoptimism.org.au>

Aussie Optimism includes six separate programs that can be used with children and adolescents of different ages from Kindy through to year 8. Please look at our programs section to find out more about each one.

Aussie Optimism is based on research in psychology (e.g., Seligman, Kendall and Ellis) and uses this information to help develop social and emotional skills, competencies and resilience. Our own extensive research indicates that Aussie Optimism may:

- reduce mental health difficulties

- increase recovery from depressive disorders (anxiety and depression)
- reduce the incidence of suicidal ideation and behaviour
- increase the recovery from suicidal ideation and behaviour
- increase pro-social behaviour
- reduce the likelihood of drinking and smoking at later stages
- reduce hyperactivity

PATHS CURRICULUM: <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/programs/paths-curriculum>

PATHS is a program that targets the development of social and emotional competence in order to build children's protective factors and decrease the risk of behavioural and social problems. It is designed to promote social and emotional competence, prevent violence, aggression and other behavioural problems, improve critical thinking skills and enhance the classroom climate.

PATHS covers five conceptual domains:

Self-Control

Emotional Understanding

Positive Self-Esteem

Relationships

Interpersonal Problem-Solving Skills

It is YACS policy that all students in the school are involved in the above programs, and that teachers must also participate.