• Epilepsy Ireland acknowledge the rights of children to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and have their own views taken into consideration.

• We recognise that the welfare of children must always come first, regardless of all other considerations.

• We operate a child protection policy and where awareness is raised regarding the possibility of child abuse, we will operate procedures which protect the child. The child protection policy is available to parents/guardians by request to any employee of the organisation.

• We are committed to adopting the safest possible practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take risks and leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.

• We adopt and consistently apply clearly defined methods of recruiting staff and volunteers.

• We respond to and record any accidents and complaints relating to working with children.

• We believe that early intervention with children who are vulnerable or at risk may prevent serious harm from happening to them at a later stage.

• We are aware that a child’s age, gender and background affect the way they experience and understand what is happening to them.

• We provide child protection training for workers.

• We work from a policy of openness with parents which involves consulting them about everything that concerns their children, and encouraging them to get involved with the organisation wherever possible.

• We do not work with children under 18 in unsupervised circumstances, with the exception of the provision of one-to-one support services to 16 and 17 year olds where parents/ guardians have given their consent.

• Parents/Guardians are required to sign consent and responsibility forms when attending Family Fun Days and other activities for children.

• We co-operate with any other child care and protection agencies and professionals by sharing information when necessary and working together towards the best possible outcome for the children concerned.

• We make links with other relevant organisations in order to promote child protection and welfare policies and practices.