

# SAFE SPACES

## How to Create Safe Spaces in **Early Care & Education** for Children in Immigrant Families



### WHAT IS A SAFE SPACE POLICY?

A Safe Space Policy is a formal plan to protect the safety and privacy of children—especially those in mixed-status families—during potential immigration enforcement actions. A Safe Space Policy:

- ➡ **Clarifies staff roles in emergencies**
- ➡ **Signals your commitment to inclusion**
- ➡ **Reduces fear and confusion**
- ➡ **Builds trust with families**

### Did you know?

- Nearly half of all children in California are from an immigrant family.
- 1 in 5 lives in a mixed-status family.

### Implementing a Safe Space Policy: Best Practices

- Conduct staff role-play trainings
- Keep emergency contacts updated
- Share “Know Your Rights” materials with families
- Partner with local rapid response networks



**ALL IN FOR  
SAFE SCHOOLS**  
SAFE SPACES,  
STRONG FUTURES

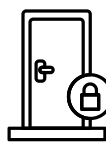
[allinfor safeschools.org](http://allinfor safeschools.org)

# CORE ELEMENTS OF A SAFE SPACE POLICY



## Assign Staff Roles

Identify who speaks to law enforcement, who alerts staff, and who contacts legal/community partners.



## Designate Private Areas

Mark private areas (e.g., offices, staff lounges). Immigration agents need a valid judicial warrant to enter private spaces.



## Interacting with Law Enforcement

Always ask for:  
→ Badge & agency ID  
→ A valid judicial warrant (signed by a judge—not an administrative warrant).

**Tip:** To learn the difference between judicial vs. administrative warrants, scan the QR code below and click on the “Warrants & Subpoenas” guide.



## Maintain Data Privacy

→ Collect only what’s needed for enrollment  
→ Never share info without consent or a court order



## Minimize Disruption

→ Avoid exposing children to law enforcement agents  
→ Maintain routines  
→ Prioritize emotional safety



## Notify Families

After an incident, clearly communicate:  
→ What happened  
→ How your program responded  
→ That families’ rights and privacy remain protected

## Know Your Rights

→ **Fourth Amendment:**  
Protects against unlawful searches. Agents need a valid judicial warrant to enter private areas.

→ **Fifth Amendment:**  
You have the right to remain silent. Staff do not have to share information without proper legal documentation.

## Get Support & Resources

Need immediate support with an immigration enforcement action? Scan the QR code to [find your local rapid response network](#).



ALL IN for Safe Schools is a statewide campaign supporting educators and providers in creating welcoming, affirming environments—especially for children in immigrant families and LGBTQ+ children. For more information, contact Liza M. Davis: [ldavis@childrenspartnership.org](mailto:ldavis@childrenspartnership.org).