

Interactions with Children

POLICY STATEMENT:

Our Service will provide an environment that reflects the principles in “My Time, Our Place” where the development of secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships with children are fostered and encouraged and genuine respect for diversity and a commitment to equity is reflected in all our interactions with children.

We will endeavor through our interactions with children to nurture their optimism, happiness and sense of fun and we will aim to recognise and respond to barriers which may impact on children achieving a positive sense of self identify.

Educators will utilise opportunities in their interactions with children to develop an understanding of each other’s expectations leading to a deeper understanding of each other and the negotiation of clear boundaries regarding safety, respect for others and procedures for creating a caring environment.

PROCEDURES:

(a) The educators will:

1. Maintain a positive attitude in all interactions with children.
2. Listen carefully to children’s experiences and perspectives and show interest in their ideas and perspectives.
3. Respect children as individuals and encourage each child to voice their opinions, concerns and ideas in a supportive forum that is free from stigmatism.
4. Support children in feeling confident in the environment by never using strategies such as shouting, threats of corporal punishment or the refusal of food or other basic needs. Educators will always treat children with respect, courtesy and understanding.
5. Treat children equally regardless of race, cultural background, religion, sex or ability and ensure interactions between children and educators exhibit this.
6. Sensitively manage children who are having difficulty conveying their message or managing their emotions.
7. Ensure children understand what is being communicated to them during interactions and allow them time to question or respond.
8. Speak to children at their level and use voice intonations, facial expressions and body language to assist in conveying messages.
9. Engage in one on one conversations with all children and develop an understanding of their likes, dislikes and interests.
10. Collaborate with children regarding the daily routines and practices within the service including programming of experiences in order to meet their individual needs, interests and abilities.
11. Organise environments and spaces that promote small and large group interactions and meaningful play and leisure.
12. Collaborate with children to develop a set of rules or boundaries to guide their behaviour in the service and discuss clear expectations and consequences of inappropriate behaviours.
13. Keep rules simple and only have a small number of concise rules that children understand, focusing on appreciating and caring for each other and the environment. All staff, families and children will be made aware of the rules and the expected consequences. The rules will be clearly displayed.

14. Ensure that all educators enforce the rules and consequences consistently at all times. Consequences will be relevant to the situation and never demeaning.
15. Follow up all issues that arise by discussing the situation with the child and strategising for better solutions in future issues.
16. Collaborate with family members and schools regarding appropriate behaviour management practices to ensure there is a consistent approach.
17. Access professional development and resources related to positive behaviour management and include this in professional development planning.
18. Act as a positive role model for appropriate and expected behaviours in the service being mindful of respectful language and tone.
19. Encourage and reward acceptable behaviour by giving praise and positive feedback to children as often as possible.
20. Focus on the behaviours being displayed and not the child displaying them.
21. Assist children in developing self-discipline skills and regulating their own behaviours by using simple conflict resolution skills, building self-reliance and self-esteem, role modelling and positive direction.
22. Provide children with opportunities to interact and develop respectful and positive relationships with each other, educators and visitors to the service.
23. Ensure that appropriate physical contact is maintained in regards to comforting children, application of first aid, safety provisions such as holding hands and maintaining respectful bodily space.
24. Identify when interactions with a child are not appropriate and refer to the services 'Providing a Child Safe Environment' policy to address these concerns.
25. Maintain defined boundaries in regards to appropriate behaviour with children and engagement with their families.
26. Not accept or enter into any private paid or voluntary babysitting / child minding arrangements with any child currently enrolled in Belair Community OOSH Inc. including siblings.

(a) The children will:

1. Be treated with respect, courtesy and understanding regardless of race, cultural background, religion, sex or ability.
2. Be encouraged to listen to others respect, courtesy and understanding regardless of race, cultural background, religion, sex or ability.
3. Be encouraged to share humour and express themselves in a variety of ways.
4. Practice strategies for problem solving, debating, negotiating and interacting with others in an appropriate way with the guidance of educators.
5. Have opportunities to use and share their home language with other children and educators.
6. Collaborate with staff in developing service routines and procedures including rules and boundaries and the consequences they should expect if these are not followed.
7. Encourage their peers to adhere to the rules and expectations.
8. Participate in experiences that will build relationships and promote interactions between each other, educators and visitors to the service.
9. Assist educators in developing programs and routines for the service that reflect their individual needs, interests and abilities.
10. Have their need for solitude or quiet time supported and respected by educators and children.
11. Develop an understanding of the choices they make and the responsibility they have to manage their own behaviours in conjunction with educators.

(c) Dealing with consistently inappropriate behaviours

1. Where a child demonstrates unacceptable behaviour consistently, educators will:
 2. Ensure the child is aware of the limits and what is appropriate behaviour.
 3. Ensure the expectations are appropriate for the child's level of development and understanding.
 4. Look for and assess possible causes for the behaviour such as environmental factors.
 5. Discuss the issue with the child and their family members.
 6. Record all incidents that occur in relation to inappropriate behaviours, making note of the events leading up to the incident, the date and time, who was involved and how the incident was handled.
 7. Develop an action plan for the management of the specific behaviours and include a plan for regular discussions with all educators, children's families, school professionals etc. to review the action plans effectiveness and progression.
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8. Where a child demonstrates behaviours that are physically harmful, educators will:
 9. Remove the child from the situation as quickly as possible.
 10. Ensure any children or educators involved have not been hurt and apply first aid where required.
 11. Record the details of the incident including date, time, people involved, people injured and the action taken.
 12. Ensure that the family members of all children involved in the incident are notified.

(d) Exclusion for unacceptable behaviours

1. Should unacceptable behaviour continue and the above strategies have not worked effectively, the educators will inform management and discuss the issue.
2. Where, in the interest of the child and other children at the centre, exclusion is seen as a necessary step, this will be decided by management and will only be considered after as many of the following :
 - Adequate support and or counselling has been provided.
 - Family members have been notified and given the opportunity to discuss the child's behaviour and strategies for creating change.
 - Referrals to other agencies have been suggested where necessary.
 - Educators and management have given careful consideration to the issue.
 - Clear procedures have been established for accepting the child back into the centre.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S168 R73, 74, 75, 76, 155, 156, 168, 274 (a)	Standards 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 7.1 Elements 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 3.2.1, 4.1.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 7.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a Child Safe Environment policy • Behaviour Guidance policy • Inclusion Policy • Grievance policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Time, Our Place. • Parent Handbook • Staff Handbook • Programming and Evaluations

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

<p>Approval Date: April 2019</p> <p>Date for Review: April 2022</p>
