



Interactions with Children Policy

The main intent of this policy is to safeguard the emotional and physical wellbeing of children and young people by helping adults to understand appropriate boundaries in relation to their professional role and all interactions with children and young people. By following these guidelines, staff can feel confident about meeting their responsibilities to children and young people as well as their professional ethics and conduct obligations.

This policy is applicable to all educators, visitors, students, mentors and volunteers and adherence to these guidelines is mandatory

This Policy is based on:

- Our site philosophy
- Department for Education's Code of Ethics
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people, Guidelines for staff working or volunteering in education and care settings 2017(2nd Edition, revised 2019).

All educators, volunteers, students, mentors and visitors will

- Act in the best interests of all children
- Create and maintain safe, healthy, inclusive environments
- Communicate with children with respect and dignity
- Ensure that children are not discriminated against based on gender, sexuality, age, ability, economic status, family structure, lifestyle, ethnicity, religion, language, culture, or national origin
- Respect children as capable learners by including their perspectives in teaching, learning and assessment

Educators will use the following strategies to support and guide children

- Re-direct the play or the child
- Offer choices
- Talk about the problem
- Use 'time in' by sitting with or near the child until they are in control of their emotions. This does not mean giving into them. It means supporting them to manage their own anger/frustration/sadness etc.
- Use visual aids e.g. pictures and social stories to support children's learning

Staff will:

- Model appropriate behaviour
- Provide opportunities to take risks and experience success
- Be positive
- Value children as individuals
- Encourage children to accept responsibility
- Help children to recognise and manage their feelings
- Be fair, patient, and consistent

We will respond to Extreme behaviours by:

- Removing the child or other children to a safe place.
- Ensure the safety of the child and educator/s.
- Supporting the child to self-regulate their emotions.
- Referring to strategies to support and guide children for next steps
- Document process, behaviours, injuries, and outcomes.
- Contact and discuss with families
- Contact support services if extreme behaviours continue

Unacceptable Behaviours from all educators, volunteers, mentors, visitors etc

- Name calling, teasing Hitting, kicking, pinching, biting, spitting
- Disrespecting others, property and/or the environment
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Threats Bullying Racial taunts
- Yelling and screaming
- Swearing

Code of Ethics Early Childhood Australia

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/ourpublications/eca-codeethics/>
 Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people:
 guidelines for staff working or volunteering in education and care
<https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/controlled-guidelines/protectivepracticesstaff-interactions-children-young-people.pdf>

This Policy has been developed in conjunction with the Ardrossan and Districts Community Kindergarten Governing Council

This policy has been endorsed by Governing Council

Chairperson:
 Director : Ally Harvey

Signature
 Signature