



Berri Community Preschool Behaviour Guidance Code

At Berri Community Preschool, we believe that:

- *Everyone has the right to feel and be safe all the time at preschool.
- *Children learn best when they experience success and have positive self-esteem.
- *Staff and parents need to share responsibility by:
 - being as consistent as possible.
 - creating a safe, secure environment for children.
 - modelling appropriate and respectful behaviour.
- *Individuals need to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
- *All children should feel empowered to stop inappropriate behaviour by saying, "Stop it. I don't like it", and / or to seek help from an adult.
- *Our preschool is accountable to the parents and community to provide a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment which will enhance the development of children's life skills and competencies, in which every child and family is valued and respected.
- *All children have the right to learn and play in a friendly, safe, supportive environment.
- *We recognise that parents are significant educators of the child and acknowledge that a partnership between parents and staff will lead to the most effective learning.
- *Consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviors will be logical.
- *Inappropriate behaviors will be talked through to work out solutions/resolutions.
- *Rules help to respect our rights and to encourage responsibility.
- *All staff should have the right to teach in a friendly, co-operative, supportive environment.

***At Berri Community Preschool we encourage the following acceptable behaviours:-**

- We respect and care for each other.
- We share equipment and take turns.
- We are co-operative and helpful.
- We consider other people's feelings.
- We are polite to everyone.
- We use appropriate language and actions to express feelings.
- We are friendly.

***How do we maximize Positive Behaviours at Berri Community Preschool?**

- The Berri Community Preschool will provide a secure, caring and stimulating environment which will encourage children to co-operate, enhance their self-esteem, encourage their ability to interact with others and will promote acceptable behaviour.
- Staff will ensure that their communication with children shows respect at all times.
- Staff will use role modelling, explanations, voice intonations and facial expressions as methods to encourage desired behaviours. Shouting and negativity will be avoided at all times.
- Staff will reward positive behaviours with smiles, praise, stickers, facial expressions etc.
- Staff will use observational skills in order to identify potential problems and use methods such as redirection and diversion to either avert or manage situations.
- Staff will, as required, receive training/support to recognise developmentally appropriate behaviours.
- Staff will be trained / supported in strategies for guiding appropriate behaviours and it is expected that they will receive support from parents and management in dealing with difficult behaviours.
- Staff will assist with social skill development by modelling appropriate behaviour, explicitly teaching appropriate behaviour and by providing opportunities for behaviour rehearsal.

How do we minimize challenging behaviours at Berri Community Preschool?

- We ignore behaviour if it is attention seeking and /or not dangerous.
- When we observe unsafe / unacceptable / aggressive behaviour occurring we will:-
 - *remind the child of the right for people to be safe all the time at preschool
 - *give a warning
 - *offer the options of staying at the activity and changing the behaviour or removing themselves
 - *redirect the play or the child
- When unacceptable behaviours are persistently repeated we will develop a behaviour modification plan for that child in consultation with the parents (Appendix 1)



- Children will have access to a quiet area.
- Where a child continues to behave in an unacceptable manner, parents/guardians will be consulted and asked to work with the staff and outside agencies (eg Child, Adolescent Mental Health Service, if appropriate) to ensure positive techniques are consistent and clear, leading to acceptable behaviours.
- Limits to behaviour will be clearly expressed in positive terms and reinforced consistently in a developmentally appropriate way, building on each child's strengths and achievements.
- Children will receive a friendly reminder about inappropriate behaviour but where necessary a few minutes away from the group with an adult may be beneficial to the child. It will not be for punishment and will be explained to the child that it is for safety reasons.
- If children consistently display unacceptable behaviour that threatens the health and welfare of themselves, other children or staff:-
 - Staff will record instances/occurrences of unacceptable behaviours clearly indicating date, time, what happened and action taken.
 - Staff will meet to examine records of behaviours against developmental checklists and plan appropriate responses/strategies to ensure consistent relevant management.
 - Reviews will be conducted regularly to assess behaviour modification and progress and reassess strategies.

Responses to inappropriate behaviour will reflect the dignity and rights of the child.

Kindergarten staff will respond to inappropriate behaviour by:

- Distracting and redirecting children.
- Planned early intervention - support time.
- Assisting in the development of problem solving and communication skills.
- Encouraging and reinforcing appropriate behaviour.
- Setting limits where safety is an issue.
- Inform parents of strategies.
- Calming activities.
- Repairing damage caused.
- A consistent approach by parents and preschool staff.

Where inappropriate behaviour is persistent, **withdrawal from that area** (of either the child, or the rest of the group) will be used.

The **withdrawal** will be in an area where the child can be supervised by a member of staff.

Re-entry from withdrawal will involve staff encouraging and modelling appropriate behaviour for the child to rehearse, to enable the child to participate more effectively in the group and be recognised for his/her success.

- If a child is withdrawn, it will be within the room for a short period of time, or near the teacher if in the playground.
- Children will reflect on what was done and future behaviors.
- After counselling, there will be re-entry into the group.
- Explicit teaching of social skills will be explicitly taught using eg role play, social stories, songs.

Informing Children:

We accept that:

- All children feel angry, frustrated and upset at times and need help to express their feelings appropriately.
- Children learn from experiences and not just being talked with about what acceptable behaviour looks and feels like.
- Children need to experience and know how to manage negative feelings from other people and they are not always going to "get it right".
- Remind the child of the right for people to be safe all the time at preschool.
- Give a warning.
- When unacceptable behaviours are persistently repeated we will develop a behaviour modification plan for that child in consultation with the parents.
- Children will always be made aware of the consequences of their action.
- Staff will ensure that appropriate behaviour is acknowledged/commended/celebrated.

***Consulting and informing parents:**

- When unacceptable behaviours are persistently repeated we will develop a Behaviour Modification Plan for that child in consultation with the parents.



- Where a child continues to behave in an inappropriate manner, parents/guardians will be consulted and encouraged to work collaboratively with the staff and outside agencies (if appropriate/necessary) to ensure positive techniques are consistent and clear, leading to acceptable behaviours.
- For continued occurrences of inappropriate behaviours a meeting between parents and senior staff will be arranged to discuss concerns, to ensure that there is no conflict between home and centre expectations and to formulate further strategies.
- When we have ongoing concerns about a child's behaviour or learning, we will invite parents to participate in a joint planning process and/or DECD Behaviour Support Staff for assistance with ongoing planning.

***How Parents can help support the Site Behaviour Code:**

- Parents will be provided with clear guidelines about acceptable behaviours, involvement in determining appropriate strategies for dealing with poor behaviour, avenues of support for parenting skills as well as non-judgmental communication from staff.
- Parents/adults/visitors/volunteers will refer **all** behaviour issues to staff.
- Agencies (external governmental, departmental, community) that can support staff, parents and the child will be consulted as required.
- We support the right of any parent who believes our Behaviour Code is not being implemented appropriately to have their grievance addressed. Please refer to 'Parent guide to raising a concern or complaint' pamphlet if you feel your concerns are not being addressed.

***Informing staff:**

- Staff meet regularly to discuss & monitor behaviour strategies & emerging issues.
- Staff consistency in the approach to behaviour management is maintained through effective communication processes.
- Staff share T & D information and attend training opportunities.

***How staff can help support the Site behaviour Code.**

Staff will:

- Model appropriate behaviour which encourages positive and responsible behaviour in the areas of:
 - socially acceptable behaviours
 - positive interaction with peers
 - maintenance of a safe and caring environment
- Respect and value children within the context of the family
- Encourage children to accept responsibility for their own behaviour
- Clearly explain limits / boundaries to children
- Use early intervention to avoid escalation of conflict
- Use positive reinforcement, encouraging appropriate behaviour
- Be consistent and follow through when managing behaviour
- Be fair and patient
- Ensure centre and equipment are safe
- Make a photo display to reinforce preschool expectations with the children

Staff will encourage and support children:

- Have their feelings acknowledged and assisted to express and manage them appropriately.
- Settle their differences in a peaceful manner and to engage in age appropriate problem solving.
- Be appropriately assertive
- Feel safe
- Develop confidence in their own ability
- Be happy and positive about themselves and others
- Share equipment, attention and time
- Show initiative
- Take risks
- Problem solve
- Communicate effectively
- Express their feelings, wants and needs appropriately
- Work together cooperatively
- Respect others and equipment
- Take responsibility for their own actions



Referrals to appropriate support agencies may be required/recommended at the instigation of either the parents or the staff, this may include assessment by health or educational personnel and the development of a One Plan.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Council, staff and families of the centre and will be reviewed and evaluated regularly and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for Berri Community Preschool. This policy will be shared with all new staff and families, and available on the website and in the preschool policies folder.

Policy Issued: May 2021

Policy Review Date: May 2023