

**MCKAY CHILDREN'S CENTRE INC.
INCLUDING PENOLA OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**

ELM-6 Guiding and Managing Children's Behaviour

Policy Statement:

At McKay Children's Centre and Penola OSHC we believe that all individuals – children, staff, families and visitors will be treated with care and respect. Children's social and emotional well-being determines their success in learning and this will be promoted across our three services through providing a safe, supportive environment and high quality programs that engage learners. Children will be supported and guided to manage their own behaviour in order to be the best they can be and build a strong sense of belonging in a caring community.

The behaviours we encourage at McKay Children's Centre and Penola OSHC include:

- Positively interacting with individuals and groups
- Expressing wants and needs clearly
- Respecting the rights and safety of others
- Sharing resources
- Including others in play
- Caring for self, others, property and the environment
- Resolving conflict in a positive manner
- Assisting others
- Accepting differences and having a positive attitude to those experiencing difficulties

To maximize positive outcomes educators will:

- Provide a safe, well planned environment that promotes a sense of belonging, trust and respect
- Plan a stimulating, challenging and enjoyable program that acknowledges the importance of play in children's learning and offers a range of choices
- Plan for individual children according to interests, ability, home culture, stage of development and needs based on information from the family and educator observations
- Develop children's awareness of what is acceptable and unacceptable, what is safe and what helps others get along
- Supervise children and respond appropriately as situations arise
- Support children to risk assess situations as they consider and make choices
- Model verbal and non-verbal language that is respectful and inclusive of all families and children
- Explicitly teach social skills – getting along, confidence, persistence and organization through the Success program - and the Keeping Children Safe program

Strategies for different age groups throughout the Centre & Penola OSHC

To assist children 0-2 years educators will:

- Set up a safe environment in which children can explore and develop new skills
- Develop warm, nurturing relationships

- Offer duplicates and a range of materials to avoid disputes over ownership
- Carefully supervise children and re-direct if necessary
- Offer positive feedback for sharing, helping and positive interactions with others
- Establish eye contact and speak simply and clearly when there is a concern
- Respond to children's bids, e.g. a call for comfort

To assist children 2-5 years educators will:

- Provide an enriching environment that stimulates learning through the exploration, experimentation and manipulation of a variety of resources
- Ensure a range of quiet and energetic activities are available
- Establish routines and rules with the children that are understandable and use visual cues to reinforce them
- Increase children's participation in the program by consulting with them
- Explicitly teach children at group times and individually to build a culture about how using good thinking, good words, safe hands, safe feet impacts on the welfare of self and others
- Monitor children's interactions, interests and participation in the program and use this to develop individual programs
- Encourage co-operation through planned small group experiences
- Redirect children to a different area or activity if required
- Acknowledge positive behavior and use positive language to reinforce competencies
- Utilise communication strategies such as visuals, social stories and sign language to assist children in the development of social skills
- Consult with families to build strong relationships that benefit families and community
- Consult with health professionals and make referrals with the Director or Assistant Director's input where necessary, e.g., CAFHS nurse, Community Health professionals (Occupational Therapist, Speech Pathologist) and DECD Support Services (Special Educator, Speech Pathologist, Behaviour Support) and Gowrie SA

To assist children 7- 12 years [OSHC] educators will follow the above, but also:

- Establish and reinforce group rules via democratic decision making
- Encourage older children to assist and support younger children
- Ensure a range of activities are available for this diverse age group
- Address issues with sensitivity as they arise and consult with families to find caring solutions
- Discuss with other OSHC educators and the Centre Director strategies to deal with issues as they emerge but also in shared programming sessions

To minimize challenging behaviour educators will:

Attend to challenging behaviour as soon as it is observed and redirect the child

- Respond to the situation according to the individual's needs
- If required ask the child to sit and reflect on their behaviour and follow up with discussion
- Focus on the feelings of the victim if a child is hurt and verbalise signs of empathy
- Record ongoing challenging behaviour using an ABC chart and report to the room leader, Assistant Director or Director
- Communicate issues sensitively to families concerned

- Seek support from DECD and other agencies e.g. Gowrie SA, Community Health, CAFHS
- Model appropriate responses and support children to develop problem solving, negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Teach children strategies to respond appropriately to interactions they don't like e.g. "Stop [with hand signal]. I don't like.....because..... It makes me feel.....".
- Give a child limited choices if they are not participating purposefully

To consult with and inform families, educators will:

- Provide each family with the ELM-6 Guiding and Managing Children's Behaviour policy on enrolment
- Encourage families to share information about their child through discussion in Induction and Parent: Educator meetings
- Support families and children in their transition routines from home to childcare to school to OSHC
- Maintain confidentiality in discussions with families and other agencies

Families are able to support the ELM-6 Guiding and Managing Children's Behaviour policy when they:

- Share their ideas and experiences about their child with educators
- Discuss concerns with educators at the earliest opportunity and work towards developing consistent strategies to address issues and solve problems at home and at McKay and Penola OSHC
- Abide by this policy in their interactions with children including their own children at McKay and at Penola OSHC.

Educators are informed about behaviour management when they:

- Receive the ELM-6 Guiding and Managing Children's Behaviour policy in their induction folder
- Develop skills and knowledge through professional development, e.g., Circle of Security; Autism SA programs and Marte Meo
- Critically reflect with each other on children's participation in the program

Sources:

- Early Years Learning Framework
- Respect Reflect Relate (DECD)
- UN Rights of a Child (Article 31)
- Supporting and Managing Children's Behaviour
- Success Program
- Keeping Children Safe

Policy Reference Number: ELM 6

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