

Interactions with Children Policy

Aim

- Encourage children to make choices and express their ideas and opinions
- Maintain the dignity and rights of each child
- Provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment where children feel included and supported to explore and learn
- Build trusting, meaningful relationships with each child
- Maintain a duty of care towards all children
- Work collaboratively with families to extend learning and development outcomes for children
- Acknowledge children as competent learners

Rationale

All educators at CSIROCare Clayton ensure that their interactions with each child are warm, responsive and respectful, to enhance each child's sense of security and belonging. This allows children the opportunity to explore their environment and engage in play and learning. Educators will be positive role models for each child and will assist them in managing their own behaviour, which will enhance their social interactions with one another and all people in the community.

Body

Educators will:

1. When interacting with children, abide by:
 - The Code of Ethics
 - The Education and Care Services National Law
 - The Education and Care Services National Regulations
 - The National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care
 - The Early Years Learning Framework
2. Ensure each child is happy, confident and feels secure in their environment by interacting with each child in a meaningful way and ascertaining individual personalities, preferences, likes/dislikes through observations and collaborations with family members. To achieve this families are encouraged to bring in family photos to the service and any other educational resources that may assist the child to feel happy, safe and secure whilst they are at the centre.
3. Provide an environment that is warm, friendly, nurturing, responsive and respectful at all times. Children will be comforted when they are distressed and treated with dignity. All children will be treated equally and included in all aspects of the program. At times this will mean that educators will have to tailor experiences to meet the individual needs and various developmental abilities of each child in their care. Educator's interactions will promote diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism. Please refer to our Anti-Bias curriculum policy, Diversity policy, gender equity policy and inclusion support policy.

Positive Behaviour guidance strategies are implemented and are tailored to the individual child's needs. Please refer to our Behaviour Guidance policy.

4. Interact meaningfully with each child and build trusting relationships with them. Each educator will get to know each individual child and will adjust their interactions with them accordingly. Educators will ensure that routine times are enjoyable and provide an educational opportunity where possible. They will use open-ended questioning to gain insight into each child's thoughts and feelings and will use praise and encouragement to promote each child's self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. This in turn promotes a strong sense of wellbeing for each child.

5. Provide an environment where children are encouraged to explore, discover, investigate, problem solve and hypothesise. Educators will support each child's learning through meaningful interactions that are responsive and encouraging. Educators will change environments and resources in collaboration with children. Educators will support children in assessing their own learning and to develop guidelines for their behaviour.

6. Use effective communication at all times when interacting with children and listen and respond to children in a calm manner at all times.

Parents will:

1. Respect the rights and privacy of all children at the Centre at all times.
2. Adhere to the Centre's 'Code of Conduct Policy' at all times when interacting with children at the Centre.
3. Interact with children in a warm, respectful and friendly manner.

Management will:

1. Interact with children in accordance with the educators guidelines stipulated above.
2. Provide current information on interacting with children from recognised institutions and governing bodies.
3. Observe educator's interactions with children and offer strategies for improvements where necessary.
4. Ensure any person who comes into contact with the children in the Centre act in accordance to this policy.