



CHILD BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

Staff and Management at Acorn Early Learning Centre will be accepting of all children, who will be given respect and dignity. Children's rights will be respected and their self-esteem developed.

Objectives

1. To ensure that children are treated with dignity and respect at all times and are not subject to blame, harsh language, belittling or degrading responses, or any form of physical ill treatment – including solitary confinement, immobilization, deprivation of feed, drink, warmth, shelter or protection.
2. To ensure that every child is given positive guidance promoting appropriate behaviour, having regard to the child's stage of development.
3. To ensure that staff, students and visitors consistently implement agreed behaviour management strategies in the Centre.
4. To implement the principles and strands of Te Whaariki within the programme to ensure the holistic needs of the children are met.

Management Strategies:

- Staff will regularly discuss "centre rules" with children so that they are aware of behaviour expectations and are able to monitor their own behaviour and that of their peers. Centre rules should be displayed in the Centre.
- Children will not be allowed to hurt themselves or others, or to interfere with the work of other children.

- In the event of misbehaviour, staff will remind the children of the rule(s) and encourage them to consider the consequences of their actions.
- Staff will encourage children to articulate the reason for their behaviour, and to express their feelings in non-aggressive ways.
- Children will be encouraged to apologise to children and adults that they have upset.
- In instances of minor upset, staff should give children the opportunity to observe children playing peacefully and to then rejoin the play.
- Children who persist with inappropriate play will be redirected to another area of play.
- Staff should clearly articulate the consequences of continued poor behaviour and be prepared to implement this. This may include 'time out' for the child to consider his or her actions and the impact they are having on others or their environment.
- If a child is given time out to think, they will be asked to sit somewhere close by where they can be seen and they can also view others. The child will have approximately a minute for each year of their age to think through their actions and to refocus on appropriate play and interactions. At the end of this cool down period, a teacher will discuss with the child the inappropriate behaviour and if necessary, the child will be encouraged to fix the problem, apologise or begin something new.
- Angry or hurtful children will be encouraged to take time out to 'cool down'.
- Staff may 'shadow' a child who continues to disrupt the play of others, or suggest a task that they will need to complete with an adult before they can return to play.
- The supervisor will discuss persistent inappropriate behaviour with the child's parent/guardian. This discussion should result in agreed management strategies, and provide opportunities for regular, ongoing feedback until such time as the issue is resolved.
- From time to time staff may deem it appropriate to focus programme planning on the development of social skills.
- Staff will at all times provide a range of activities that encourage co-operative and collaborative play.

- When dealing with instances of ongoing challenging behaviour, staff will consider whether the child may be reacting to boredom and frustration, and modify that child's individual programme accordingly.
- Educators in a stressful situation will be encouraged to move away and request another staff member to take over.
- When the child's behaviour is at risk of endangering the child, other children or staff (such as aggressive, hurtful behaviour), staff will, as a last resort, intervene and restrain the child, to minimize and limit danger or injury to those involved. Parents will be immediately notified.
- When the child's behaviour continues and endangers other children, management may, after careful consideration, ask the parent/guardian to remove the child from this Centre.
- It is our policy at Acorn ELC to encourage appropriate behaviour first and foremost, through recognition, praise, modeling, and encouragement.
- **Staff should consider that the primary purposes of behaviour management is to ensure children's safety and to help them develop appropriate social skills. Adult responses to conflict or misbehaviour should therefore be appropriate to the urgency of the situation and the age of the children. If a child's safety is at risk, staff should intervene immediately and decisively. Instances of minor conflict or inappropriate behaviour may be better monitored from a distance to allow children to develop independence and self control**

Reviewed: December 2011

Next Review: December 2012