

Mitcham Preschool Centre

Behaviour (inc Anti Bullying) Policy

At Mitcham Preschool, we believe that:

- All children have the right to learn in a safe, secure, caring environment.
- Children come to Preschool from a variety of social backgrounds. Preschoolers need time, opportunity and space to learn how to play, share, take turns and care for others and their environment.
- Appropriate behaviour is influenced by developmental ability, temperament, interactions, life experiences and environmental factors.
- Educators, parents and caregivers need to share the responsibility, being consistent and modelling appropriate behaviours.

The Preschool philosophy is underpinned by the following qualities and principles:

Equity; caring; empathy; consideration & compassion; honesty & integrity; respect for self and others; perseverance; tolerance; optimism; resilience; responsibility; encouragement; self-belief and trust.

1. We encourage behaviours that support these qualities and principles, including:

- Participation in a variety of activities
- Organisational skills
- Sharing and respecting equipment and materials
- Taking turns
- Actively listening and responding to others
- Cooperating with others
- Being inclusive of each other – accepting each other's differences, cultures and backgrounds
- Tolerance
- Developing empathy for others

We maximise these positive behaviours by:

- Providing a safe, secure and supportive environment in which children are successful in learning appropriate behaviours
- Explicitly teaching what is acceptable and that the children are role models
- Using a positive approach to behaviour management that takes into account child and contextual factors
- Addressing challenging behaviours in a timely and appropriate manner

2. Behaviours which are not acceptable or appropriate include:

- Any behaviour that puts a child or others at risk, ie bullying, hitting, kicking, pinching, biting, violence and consistently not following safety rules (please note, bullying refers to a behaviour which occurs more than once, in a continuous manner)
- Any behaviour that is disruptive to the child's or group's learning, ie not listening or distracting others
- Any behaviour that is not socially acceptable, ie spitting

- Any behaviour that excludes others from play
- Any behaviour that involves verbally abusing others, ie name calling or negative language eg swearing

Strategies for minimising challenging behaviours include:

- Discuss safety in the Preschool and involve children in settling and understanding rules, behaviour expectations and the consequences
- Children will be encouraged to use their words to resolve difficulties. All educators working at the Preschool will be aware of the importance of role modelling and discussing the consequences of unsafe behaviour as they occur
- If unsafe or inappropriate behaviour reoccurs the child will be supported by educators to make an alternative choice
- If there are continual episodes of unsafe behaviour or bullying, a behaviour management plan will be developed in consultation with parents
- If it is deemed necessary, Department of Child Development (DECD) support will be accessed.

With regards to supporting the qualities and principles that form part of the Behaviour Policy, all members of the Preschool Community have responsibilities.

1. Parents and Carers can support the Policy by:

- 1.1. Reading and understanding the Behaviour Policy on commencement of their child at Preschool
- 1.2. Working in partnership with the centre, by developing a culture of mutual respect and trust between parents and educators
- 1.3. Reinforcing behaviours at home and on site, where educators can provide strategies for parents.

2. Educators are responsible for :

- 2.1. Providing opportunities for children to take risks and experience success
- 2.2. Being positive
- 2.3. Encouraging children to take responsibility
- 2.4. Helping children recognise and express their feelings in an appropriate manner and giving them the strategies to do so when needed
- 2.5. Making learning relevant and manageable for children
- 2.6. Being consistent in expectations
- 2.7. Informing parents when necessary.

3. The Preschool Director will be responsible for:

- 3.1. Development, implementation and review of the Preschool's Behaviour Policy annually in consultation with educators and Governing Council Members
- 3.2. Ensuring that all new families to the Preschool are provided with copies of the Preschool's policies (including Behaviour Policy)
- 3.3. Ensuring all families have continual access to the Behaviour Policy
- 3.4. Providing access to relevant professional development for educators
- 3.5. Managing incidents of unacceptable behaviours or bullying in a consistent manner.

Approved: Governing Council Chairperson

Approved: Mitcham Preschool Director