

Behaviour Guidance Policy

2018

National Quality Standard

5.1	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.
5.2	Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships
5.2.2	Each child is supported to regulate their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts.

National Regulations

155	Interactions with children
156	Relationships in groups

Aim

Medowie Gumnut Preschool believes that children flourish best when they know how they are expected to behave and should be free to play and learn without fear of being hurt or unfairly restricted by anyone else. At Medowie Gumnut Preschool, we aim to provide an environment in which there is acceptable behaviour and where children learn to respect themselves, other people and their environment.

Who is affected by this Policy?

- * Management
- * Educators
- * Children
- * Families

Implementation

- At Medowie Gumnut Preschool we require all staff to provide a positive model of behaviour by treating children, parents and one another with friendliness, care, courtesy and respect.
- We require all staff to use positive strategies for handling any conflict by helping children find solutions in ways which are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development- for example distraction, praise and reward. [Volunteers and students should seek advice from senior staff before dealing with an incident].
- We familiarise new staff and volunteers with the pre-school's behaviour policy and its rules for behaviour.
- We expect all members of the pre-school – children, parents, staff, volunteers and students – to keep to the rules, requiring these to be applied consistently.
- We praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness, willingness to share and respect for others and our environment.
- We avoid creating situations in which children receive adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviour.
- We recognise that codes for interacting with other people vary between cultures and require staff to be aware of – and respect – those used by members of the pre-school.
- When children behave in unacceptable ways, we help them to see what was wrong and how to cope more appropriately.
- We never send children out of the room by themselves.

- We never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. Children are never threatened with these.
- We do not use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children.
- We only use physical restraint, such as holding to prevent physical injury to children or adults and/or serious damage to property. Details of such an event (what happened, what action was taken and by whom, and the names of witnesses) are brought to the attention of the Director and are recorded in our Incident Book. A parent is informed on the same day and signs in the Incident Book to indicate that he/she has been informed.
- In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, we make clear immediately the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes, by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
- We do not shout or raise our voices in a threatening way to respond to children's behaviour.
- We handle children's unacceptable behaviour in ways which are appropriate to their ages and stages of development – for example by distraction, discussion or by withdrawing the child from the situation.
- We work in partnership with children's parents. Parents are regularly informed about their children's behaviour by their key worker. We work with parents to address recurring unacceptable behaviour, using observation records to help us to understand the cause and to decide jointly how to respond appropriately.

Bullying

Bullying involves the persistent physical or verbal abuse of another child or children. We take bullying very seriously. If a child bullies another child or children:

- we intervene to stop the child harming the other child or children;
- we explain to the child doing the bullying why his/her behaviour is inappropriate;
- we give reassurance to the child or children who have been bullied
- we make sure that children who bully receive praise when they display acceptable behaviour;
- we do not label children who bully;
- when children bully, we discuss what has happened with their parents and work out with them a plan for handling the child's behaviour;
- when children have been bullied, we share what has happened with their parents, explaining that the child who did the bullying is being helped to adopt more acceptable ways of behaving.

At Medowie Gumnut Preschool we encourage:

- * Cooperation
- * Positive interactions
- * Sharing and turn taking
- * Respectful relationships and valuing opinions of others
- * Safe play
- * Politeness
- * Listening behaviours
- * Appropriate social language and actions
- * The use of problem solving techniques to help children resolve conflict and recognition of the consequences of behaviour
- * Respect for equipment, materials and environment

Unacceptable behaviours at Medowie Gumnut Preschool are:

- * Hurtful and harmful behaviours that causes physical and or emotional distress to another child or groups of children
- * Deliberate disruption and refusal to follow directions
- * Logical Consequences to dealing with behaviours that are not acceptable
- * Redirect or remove the child Talk to the child

Sources

- * <http://kidshealth.org/parent/general/teeth/healthy.html>
- * Early Childhood Australia: <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/>
- * Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018
- * Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval)
- * Family Assistance Law
- * Australian Human Rights Commission: <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>
- * Early Childhood Australia: <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/>
- * Privacy Act: <http://www.privacy.gov.au/law/act>
- * The Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority: <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Review

Last Reviewed: July 2018

Date for Next Review: July 2019