

EDEN HILLS



Kindergarten

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## Interactions with Children Policy

The Interactions with Children Policy is a documented guideline regarding behaviour and guidance for children to help ensure that children, families and staff have a safe environment. By implementing the following guidelines we aim to provide consistency and clarity for acceptable behaviour.

At Eden Hills Kindergarten we believe everyone has the right to be safe all the time. We have the responsibility to treat others the way we would like to be treated. Eden Hills Kindergarten provides a safe, caring and well planned environment.

Children learn most effectively when staff and families share the responsibility for modelling positive behaviours and responding consistently to unsafe / unacceptable behaviours in a way that maintains the dignity and rights of each child, and takes into account the individual development and abilities of each child.

### At Eden Hills Kindergarten, we maximize positive behaviours by:

- Expressing expectations for children's behaviour positively and explicitly
- Ensuring that expectations are developmentally appropriate
- Reinforcing positive behaviour
- Celebrating success
- Provide opportunities for children to take appropriate risks
- Encourage children to accept consequences of behaviour and learn from their mistakes
- Provide lots of opportunity for talking and asking questions
- Provide literature and the opportunity to attend sessions on positive parenting
- Intervening when necessary to avoid escalation of conflict
- Help children to recognize their feelings and verbalize them appropriately
- Encouraging open two way communication with families to ensure that each child's agency is respected, and their families' cultural context is acknowledged and respected (**Agency**: being able to make choices and decisions, to influence events and to have an impact on one's world.)

- Establishing guidelines for behaviour with the children so they are part of the process and feel a sense of ownership
- Intentional teaching of appropriate behaviours and play skills which encourage self awareness and self discipline e.g. entry and exit skills when playing, leadership, conflict resolution, problem solving skills.

**Positive and safe behaviours and interactions include :**

- Respecting and caring for ourselves, each other, and the environment
- Saying hello and goodbye with eye contact
- Sharing and taking turns
- Being polite
- Being co-operative
- Participating in activities
- Listening when someone else is talking
- Helping with a task
- Using appropriate social language (e.g. "please stop, I don't like that")
- Taking responsibility for our own possessions
- Respecting other people's possessions (including something that they made or built)
- Walking (not running) inside the Kindy
- Washing hands after using the toilet, and before eating

**Unsafe / Unacceptable behaviours and interactions include :**

- Hurting others emotionally or physically be it person, property or feelings (hitting, kicking, pushing, pinching, biting, spitting, swearing, name calling, yelling and screaming at an individual, threatening, racial taunts)
- Climbing fences or gates
- Running inside the Kindy
- Being disrespectful towards equipment or the environment (e.g. throwing toys, damaging plants)
- Excluding a child from a group without good cause

**Staff will respond to unsafe / unacceptable behaviour by :**

- Reminding children of expectations and limits and why they exist
- Supporting children to problem solve, negotiate, find resolutions and manage emotions appropriately
- Telling children that it's OK to feel disappointed; you can look forward to having a turn next time
- Communicate with families at the earliest opportunity to assist the child with their behaviour
- Assess individual children's learning and reflecting on and reviewing our planned program and how the active learning environment promotes positive and safe behaviours

- Withdrawing children when they are at risk of hurting themselves or others, ensuring that an adult is with them all the time. In cases of repeated unsafe behaviour by a child over a number of Kindergarten sessions, we will plan, implement, monitor and review an Individual Behaviour Plan in partnership with families and relevant support services.

*When unsafe behaviour is repeated during a Kindergarten session, staff will use "time away", where the child will be withdrawn from the activity they were doing, and required to stay in a designated place for 3-4 minutes while being monitored by a staff member. At the end of this time away, the staff member and the child will talk through why the behaviour was unsafe, and brainstorm alternative approaches to the situation.*

Eden Hills Kindergarten has an open-door policy where parents are welcome in the centre at any time. Regular opportunities are made for parents and staff to discuss issues. Staff share concerns about children's behaviour with parents in a non-judgemental way. These concerns are based on factual, objective observations. Staff and parents work together to implement strategies to support the child. Support may be accessed from DECD support services for ongoing inappropriate behaviour once parental consent has been received.

Families and staff support the Interactions with Children Policy by participating in the development and review of the policy. This policy is included as part of the induction process for new families and staff, including relief staff.

### References

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrenservices/pages/earlychildhoodreform/interactions/>

National Quality Standard [5.1](#), [5.2](#)

[Regulation 168 \(2\) \(j\)](#)

Related Key Regulations: [155](#), [156](#) "Guide to the National Law and National Regulations"

[www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

Belonging, Being, Becoming - The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Eden Hills Kindergarten Site Behaviour Code June 2010

The John Francis Clark Memorial Kindergarten Behaviour Management Policy 1998 Revised 2010

Department of Education and Children's Services, *Behaviour Support Policy for Early Childhood Services*, 2004

Marie Dunstan Kindergarten Behaviour Management Policy 2012

Reviewed 28/06/2012

Ratified by Governing Council 19/06/2012

Next date for review June 2013

EHK Policy Interactions with Children (site behaviour code) JUNE 2012.doc, Monday, 9 September 2013