CHILD BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT POLICY

Yankalilla Community Children’s Centre

At Yankalilla Community Children’s Centre we believe that:

- Children enter our centre as active experienced learners whose behaviour is influenced by their developmental level, temperament, emotional wellbeing, physical health, gender and culture.
- Everyone (children, parents and staff) has the right to be safe at all times.
- Staff and parents share the responsibility for teaching and modelling appropriate behaviour.

Staff are committed to providing safe, caring, well planned environments, in which expectations of children's behaviour are expressed positively and explicitly and are developmentally appropriate.

Centre staff will support children (in accordance with their age and stage of development) to:

- Express their wants and needs in ways that respect the rights and safety of others
- Interact positively with individuals and the group
- Care for themselves, others and the environment
- Recognise the consequences of their behaviour
- Choose positive behaviours
- Develop problem solving skills

Pro-Active strategies will include:

- Providing a supportive environment with caring, early childhood professionals who will provide each child with consistent emotional support and value the contextual factors that are impacting on a child’s behaviour. (Circle of Security)
- Anticipation of potential environmental difficulties and use of redirection / distraction /early intervention to avoid escalation of conflict
- Teaching and reinforcement of Centre rules (Regular discussion with children of centre rules and as incidents occur)
- Teaching of communication and problem solving skills that encourage self awareness and self discipline (Learning about feelings, Labeling of feelings, Encouraging children to “Use your words”. Teaching of simple phrases to empower children ie “Stop, I don’t like it”. “Words are not for hurting”
- Focus and teaching of Centre Values - “Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Care’
- Understand that when children feel overwhelmed, they need adults to help because they are still too young to manage intense feelings on their own. When children get upset, frustrated, demanding or out of control their behaviour actually means that they need adult support. They need adults to:
  - Be calm, Take charge, Be kind, Stay with the child until the child’s feelings are under control, help the child to return to what they were doing – with a new option.

Parent Partnerships:
A brief outline of the Centre Behaviour Support Policy is provided in the Centre Information brochure and will also be discussed with parents at enrolment.

The full Behaviour Support Policy is available from the Policy Folder on the office counter.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Model and teach appropriate behaviour
- Use consistent strategies
- Communicate with staff (Factors that may affect their child’s behaviour / concerns over behaviour or incidents at the Centre)
- Support and implement their child’s individual behaviour plan if necessary
- Attend parenting courses advertised at the Centre

Behavioural expectations of children will be clearly defined in terms of both appropriate and inappropriate behaviours.
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<td>Respecting their environment – natural, equipment, belongings</td>
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Strategies for inappropriate behaviour (according to the age and developmental level of the child) may include:
- Redirection
- 1:1 positive support of child while they regain control of their emotions and behaviour.
- Active problem solving with the child
- “Time Away” for children aged over three. The maximum time on the “Time Away chair is two minutes.
- An action to “make things better” ie say sorry/ fix the broken toy etc
- See “The Child is Calm” handout

Consequences for inappropriate behaviour will reflect the dignity and rights of the child. Such consequences will never include physical, verbal or emotional punishment.

If the inappropriate behaviour is repeated:
The Director, qualified staff member and the child’s parents will consult to develop a program for the management and improvement of the inappropriate behaviour.

Support services available to support the child’s behaviour improvement plan include:
- DECS  Early Childhood Support Services (Social Work, Psychologist)
- Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS),
- Private Counselors
- Southern Fleurieu Health Service (Social Work, Adult Mental Health, Parenting support)

In cases of a child exhibiting extreme violent / dangerous behaviour the Director reserves the right to exclude the child until an effective behaviour support strategy can be provided.

Source: The circle of Security – Robyn Dolby 2007

Adopted: June 2002  Last Reviewed: June 2010  To be reviewed: June 2011