



INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN: *plus* BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Relationships of trust are strengthened when interactions with children are warm and responsive. All staff are guided by a variety learning frameworks to ensure interactions are safe – physically and psychologically, equitable, engaging, purposeful and meaningful for the child. Learning Frameworks include the Early Years Learning Framework- **Belonging, Being and Becoming, Reflect, Respect Relate** and **Kidsmatter** – an Australian Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative.

The behavior management beliefs and practices of our kindergarten contribute to the safe and positive environment provided for all children. To successfully implement this policy it is important that parents, staff and children work together in an honest and cooperative manner and promote open communication at all times.

STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT AT STRATHALBYN KINDERGARTEN & OUTREACH

Staff and children aim to consistently:

Provide a caring, sharing, safe and healthy learning environment for all

Encourage self-discipline and awareness of behaviours.

Respect individual worth and needs

Listen and talk to each other

Respond to the needs of others

Care for each other and our families

Talk and problem solve

Encourage cooperation

Take responsibility for our actions

Look after and value equipment and all learning environments

Abide by the principles of “**Child Protection Curriculum**” and include them in our everyday teaching

e.g. “We all have the right to feel safe at all times”

“Nothing is so awful, that you can’t talk about it”

“Stop it – I don’t like it because...”

Encourage positive role modeling and manners

Enhance every child’s positive self esteem

Discuss and regularly negotiate appropriate, safe behaviors for inside and outside areas.

Examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour at our preschool:

ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
Respecting and caring for others	Physical hurting others – hitting, biting, pinching, kicking
Sharing, taking turns, participating in activities	Snatching, pushing, throwing things
Being cooperative / helping	Not sharing / avoiding responsibilities i.e packing away
Polite / Manners	Swearing, spitting
Walking inside / under verandah	Running inside / under verandah
Climbing on climbing equipment	Climbing on kindergarten fences / gates
Being friendly	Taking other peoples property
Using appropriate social language	Bullying /verbal abuse
Listening / contributing at group time	Disturbing others at group time

Parents & staff believe that children learn best in a safe, caring & positive learning environment where their skills & abilities are valued.

At no time will staff use physical punishment, put downs or intimidation to discipline children.

STRATEGIES/CONSEQUENCES

When children demonstrate inappropriate, uncooperative behaviours, staff will intervene using the following steps:

Remind the child(ren) about “rules”, “expectations” and acceptable behaviours

If the inappropriate behaviour continues then either distract child(ren) and/or redirect

Sit and talk to child(ren)

Reflection Time. The child is directed to a safe space to reflect on unsafe behaviour. *(no more than 4 minutes)*

Time in. This is where the teacher will hold the child’s arms across the child’s chest, whilst in the teacher’s lap. This technique is used ONLY when the child becomes physical in an unsafe manner to themselves or another person.

STAFF WILL ENSURE THAT STRATEGIES/CONSEQUENCES ARE CONSISTENT TO ALL CHILDREN.

If a child continues to behave inappropriately staff will speak to parents and discuss strategies.

At times it may be deemed necessary for staff and / or families to seek assistance of specialist staff.

At all times, when children demonstrate appropriate and positive behavior, children will be praised and encouraged