

Behaviour Guidance

**NQS: 5.1, 5.2
Regulation 168 (2) (j)**

Policy Statement

At Renmark Children's Centre we are committed to the provision of an inclusive, play based, quality teaching, learning and care program, in a safe, supportive, positive learning environment for children and their families.

We believe that:

- Everyone (children, staff, parents and others), has the right to feel safe all the time at the centre.
- Children learn best when they experience success and feel good about themselves.
- Negative behaviour changes more quickly when handled in a positive way.
- Children will learn that behaviour has consequences, and that individuals need to accept responsibility for their behaviour.
- Staff have the right to carry out their duties in a friendly, cooperative, supportive environment.
- All children are individual and will have different responses depending on circumstances therefore staff and parents should collaborate to produce an individual strategy for addressing any challenging behaviours.
- Staff and parents need to share the responsibility for managing challenging behaviours by being consistent at all times, by creating safe and secure environments for children and by modeling appropriate behaviours.

We accept that:

- Children feel angry, frustrated, and upset at times, and need help to express their feelings.
- Children learn from experiences about what acceptable behaviour looks and feels like.
- Children need to experience, and know how to manage negative feelings from other people, and they are not always "going to get this right".

At Renmark Children's Centre we expect that all children, staff and parents will:

Support and encourage these ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS:	Discourage these UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS:
Respecting and caring for others. Sharing and turn taking. Being cooperative. Being polite. Being friendly and helpful. Listening. Using appropriate language and actions to express feelings. Respecting other children's work and belongings. Being fair and patient.	Endangering/hurting/bullying others physically or emotionally including using inappropriate language such as teasing, name calling, sexism, racism or put downs. Being belligerent or non-compliant and engaging in disruptive behaviour such as uncontrolled running, chasing, shouting, throwing or destroying things. Monopolising equipment / staff time.

Children

Children have the right to feel safe and to practice appropriate behaviour among other children and staff.

- Children will have their feelings acknowledged and be assisted to express and manage them appropriately.
- Children will be encouraged to settle their differences in a peaceful manner and to engage in age appropriate problem solving.
- Children with special needs will have extra adult support where possible.
- Children will have appropriate behaviours modeled which encourages positive and responsible behaviour within the areas of
 - socially acceptable behaviours
 - interaction with peers
 - and maintenance of a safe and caring environment.

- No child will receive any form of corporal punishment eg; smacking, or placing in a room alone, making them frightened or humiliated in any way.
- Limits to behaviour will be clearly expressed in positive terms and reinforced consistently in a developmentally appropriate way, building on each child's strengths and achievements.
- Children will receive a friendly reminder about inappropriate behaviour but where necessary a few minutes away from the group with an adult may be beneficial to the child. It will not be for punishment and will be explained to the child that it is for safety reasons.
- If children consistently display unacceptable behaviour that threatens the health and welfare of themselves, other children or staff:-
 - Staff will record instances/occurrences of unacceptable behaviours clearly indicating date, time, what happened, action taken and signature.
 - Staff will meet to examine records of behaviours against developmental checklists and plan appropriate responses/strategies to ensure consistent relevant management.
 - Reviews will be conducted regularly to assess behaviour modification and progress and reassess strategies.
 - For continued occurrences of inappropriate behaviours a meeting between parents and senior staff will be arranged to discuss concerns, to ensure that there is no conflict between home and centre expectations and to formulate further strategies.
 - Referrals to appropriate support agencies may be required/recommended at the instigation of either the parents or the staff.
 - After the child has been given every chance to respond positively and if all methods fail to result in an improvement in behaviour, the Director may discuss such issues as alternative care, the limiting of attendance etc. giving consideration to the health and safety of other children and staff at the centre. Modifications in attendance will be reviewed on a frequent and regular basis.
 - Preschool: Incidents of severe and threatening behaviours to the child/ other children/ staff will be officially documented (ED155).

Parents

Parents have the right to feel that their children are in a safe and secure environment and that they will be listened to sympathetically if they have any concerns.

- Parents will have clear guidelines about acceptable behaviours, involvement in determining appropriate strategies for dealing with poor behaviour, avenues of support for parenting skills as well as non-judgmental communication from staff.
- A close parent/staff partnership supports children learning acceptable social skills.
- Parents will have the opportunity to participate in behaviour guidance workshops.
- Parents/adults/visitors/volunteers will refer all behaviour issues to staff.
- Parents/adults are not to approach children to ask them questions about behaviour incidents, try to investigate issues or discipline any one else's child except their own.
- Parents who wish to discipline their own children will not at any time use any form of corporal punishment or use unacceptable language (eg. swearing, humiliating or threatening).
- Agencies (external governmental, departmental, community) that can support staff, parents and the child will be consulted as required.

Staff

- Staff will ensure that their communication with children shows respect at all times.
- Staff will use role modeling, explanations, voice intonations and facial expressions as methods to encourage desired behaviours. Shouting and negativity will be avoided at all times.
- Staff will use observational skills in order to identify potential problems and use methods such as redirection and diversion to either avert or manage situations. Children will always be made aware of the consequences of their action.
- Staff will ensure that appropriate behaviour is acknowledged/commended.
- Staff will, as required, receive training/support to recognise developmentally appropriate behaviours.
- Staff will be trained/supported in strategies for guiding appropriate behaviours and it is expected that they will receive support from parents and management in dealing with difficult behaviours.

References:

- DECD Behaviour Support Policy for Early Childhood Settings, 2004
www.decd.sa.gov.au
- DECD Safer DECD schools 2011
www.decd.sa.gov.au

Please also refer to Renmark Children's Centre Anti-Bullying Policy.

DECD Policy web link: www.decd.sa.gov.au/policiesreg168

Date Reviewed: December 2015

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