



INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN POLICY

Policy Statement

New Lambton District OOSH (NLDOOSH) provides an environment where respectful and appropriate relationships with children are fostered and encouraged. A genuine respect for diversity and a commitment to equity is reflected in all interactions with children. We are committed to the Child Safe Standards.

Paramountcy Statement

At our service, the best interests of the child are our first and foremost consideration in all decisions and actions.

We are committed to:

- * Prioritising children's safety, wellbeing, and dignity at all times
- * Ensuring children are at the centre of all decisions about programs, environments, and routines.
- * Making choices based on what is best for children, even when other priorities exist.
- * Creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for every child.

This principle applies to all staff, volunteers, and decisions within our service, every day.

Procedures

a. Educators will:

- maintain a positive attitude in all interactions with children. Each child will be encouraged to voice their opinions, concerns and ideas in a supportive environment free from judgement or negativity. They will listen attentively to children, showing interest in their ideas and perspectives.
- treat children with respect, courtesy and understanding. They will help children feel confident and comfortable in our environments.
- will not shout, threaten corporal punishment or refuse food or other basic needs. They will sensitively manage children who are having difficulty communicating their perspective or managing their emotions.

- treat children equally regardless of race, cultural background, religion, sex or ability. Every interaction with children will exhibit this equitable treatment.
- speak to children at their level and use voice intonations, facial expressions and body language to help convey messages and information.
- engage with children one to one to get to know them and develop meaningful and appropriate relationships that enhance the child's time in our centre.
- actively engage with children to discuss and inform activities and daily routines. This will ensure our programs reflect the interests and abilities of our children and demonstrates the value we attribute to our children's contributions.
- provide a range of environments and activities to accommodate children's differing needs and interests.
- ensure that clear rules, expectations and consequences are established, communicated to all children and implemented equitably and consistently. There will be only a small number of rules that will be easy for children to understand and that are based around respecting and caring for each other and the environment. All consequences will be relevant to the situation, and never demeaning, with a focus on the behaviour, not the child. Acceptable behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded by giving praise and positive feedback.
- collaborate with family members and schools regarding appropriate behaviour management practices to ensure a consistent approach
- ensure that appropriate physical contact is maintained regarding comforting children, application of first aid, safety provisions such as hand holding and maintaining respectful personal space. Educators will not be alone with a single child in a room.
- identify when interactions with a child are not appropriate and refer to the NLDOOSH 'Providing a Child Safe Environment' policy and staff procedures to address these concerns.
- model respect, courtesy and understanding, always, encouraging children to adopt the same principles.

Programming, evaluation, play and development

- a. Children are encouraged to participate in decision-making within the service. They are introduced to new, creative and interesting ideas and resources and able to complete on-going projects. Our educators will program to meet profiled needs, interests and abilities for varying groups of children. Our children will have opportunities to take on leadership roles, work in partnerships, implement experiences for other children and take on responsibilities.

- b. Educators will acknowledge and support children's efforts and encourage them to appreciate each other's achievements individually and as groups. It is a priority for children to be encouraged and supported, to initiate, create and explore. Educators will be sensitive to the varying levels of competence and confidence of all children and know when to offer: challenge/choice/help.
- c. Educators will take an active role in extending physical play, giving children confidence to take on new play experiences. Children are encouraged to adopt and use simple resources in setting up physical activities and experiences at their level of ability.
- d. Educators will assist children to find ways to include others in their physical play, always accepting each other's development and skill level.

Considerations

Name	Reference
Education and Care Services National Regulations	5AA, 73, 74, 75, 76, 155, 156, 166A
National Quality Standard	168
Other NLDOOSH policies/ documentation	• Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy • Staffing Policy
Other	• <i>My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia</i>, Council of Australian Governments 2011 • Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW • Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 • Child Safe Standards https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/g_CSS_GuidetotheStandards.pdf • United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child • Child Safe Standards

Policy status

Policy developed	June 2006
Last reviewed	August 2026
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Policy owned by	Centre Coordinator, Employees, Families, Management and Interested Parties