NEW LAMBTON DISTRICT

BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE POLICY

Policy Statement

New Lambton District OOSH aims to provide an environment where all parents, educators and children feel safe, cared for and relaxed, encouraging co-operation and positive interactions between all persons (My Time, Our Place Outcome 1)

Our OOSH Code will be clearly established based on safety, respect for others, order, cleanliness creating a caring environment. Positive behaviour will be encouraged and self-discipline skills developed through positive example and direction. Educators will aim to guide rather than control the behavior of the children in our care.

New Lambton District OOSH recognises the importance of children's input into developing the basic rules and helping to determine the basic rules and helping to determine appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior (My Time, Our Place Outcome 2)

Our service promotes a positive approach to managing the behavior of all children. Children will be encouraged to problem solve and manage their frustrations where appropriate. This can be achieved by exploring possible solutions, and helping children understand and deal with their emotions. This will depend on the child's age and level of development (My Time, Our Place Outcome 3)

Procedures

a. Positive behaviour will be encouraged by role modeling, diverting children to more appropriate activities, showing appreciation for appropriate behaviour and building on each child's strengths and achievements.
b. Children are to be given opportunities that enable them to be responsible for their own behaviour through the development of problem solving skills.
c. Children will be encouraged to seek support when necessary.
d. Educators will have access to training and support in positive approaches to behaviour management. This will be made available as part of the training budget.
e. Educators, school and parents should work in partnership in promoting a consistent and positive approach to behaviour management.
f. Educators will only use time out for short periods, where children are encouraged to sit and think. Educators will follow up all time out situations by discussing the situation with the child and working together on better solutions for future behaviour.
g. No child is to have food or other basic needs withdrawn as part of a punishment.
h. Educators and parents will raise concerns as they arise and discuss ways of working together to assist children to make changes in inappropriate behaviour.
i. Develop an understanding that behaviour results from choices made by the individual and that all behaviour has consequences.

j. Whilst at New Lambton District OOSH, we expect that the children will comply with the following basic rules:

- Respect each other
- Respect other people's property and that of the service
- Accept and respect individual needs and difference
- Clean up after activities
- Be polite to educators and to each other
- Follow the instructions from educators
- Play only in the allocated areas as directed by educators and not enter areas that educators have designated "out of bounds"
- Not to bully or engage in any form of aggressive behaviour
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Protect our environment
- HAVE LOTS OF FUN

Guiding Children's Behaviour (See also Behaviour Guidance Staff Procedure)

a. Steps that educators take towards establishing good behavior management include:

- Establishing positive relationships, which are the foundation for building children's self-respect, self-worth and feelings of security.
- Observing children to identify triggers for challenging behaviours. Paying attention to the child's developmental level and any program issues that may be impacting on the behaviour.
- Using positive approaches to behavior guidance. Some of these include positive acknowledgement, redirection, giving explanations, encouragement, giving help, collaborating to solve problems and helping children to understand the consequences and impact of their behaviour.
- Supporting children by providing acceptable alternative behaviours when challenging behaviour occurs
- Ensuring limits are consistent, carried out in a calm, firm manner, followed through and that children are helped to behave within the limits.
- Involving the family and the child in appropriate ways in addressing challenging behaviour
- Using other professionals when necessary to help with behaviour guidance
- Identifying children's strengths and building on them
- Seeking support from other educators and management

Correction Steps

a. When a child's behaviour is deemed inappropriate or if a child's behaviour is intrusive to another person's enjoyment, then educators will actively intervene and take steps to attempt to resolve the situation.

b. Inappropriate behaviour can include bullying, being uncooperative, not listening to reasonable requests from educators, or consistently disregarding the basic rules.

Persistent Inappropriate Behaviour

a. If inappropriate behaviour continues over a period of time, a meeting between educators, nominated supervisor, child and family will be arranged.
b. A mutual strategy for improving behaviour will be discussed and closely monitored by educators, the nominated supervisor and the child's family. Should it be necessary, and with the consent of the family, advice and assistance will be sought from relevant external specialists to address the matter.
c. In extreme cases, to protect other children and educators, the service reserves the right to exclude the child from the service; this may be a temporary or permanent measure. Clear procedures would be established for the child to return to the service.

Considerations

Name	Reference
Education and Care Services National Regulations	S167 R73, 74, 76, 155, 156, 157, 168, 274(a)
National Quality Standard	Standards 1.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2 Elements 1.1.2, 2.2.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 6.2.2
Other NDLOOSH policies/ documentation	• Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy • Staffing Policy • Behaviour Guidance Staff Procedure
Other	• *My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia*, Council of Australian Governments 2011 • Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW • Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 • United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child • NLDOOSH Traffic Lights • NLDOOSH Individualised Behaviour Motivation Plan (IBMP) • Network of Community Activities Behaviour Guidance template

Policy status

Policy developed	Feb 2000
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Policy owned by	Centre Coordinator, Employees, Families, Management and Interested Parties