

Edgeworth Child Care Centre Inc.

Protective Behaviours Policy

Aim

Protective behaviour strategies will be incorporated into our everyday programs. It is important that children and young people develop personal safety skills from a well presented and well-structured Personal Safety Program.

Below are the aims and the beliefs the education and care service holds as to why protective behaviour is a vital part of living skills for all children.

- Children will be able to recognise their feelings and express them verbally using the "I" message. (i.e. I feel...when... rather than saying You make me feel...).
- Children will be able to express their feelings in a variety of acceptable ways both verbally and non-verbally and that Educators/Staff will listen and respond appropriately.
- Children will understand that they can choose to change the way they are feeling.
- Children understand that "safe" is the way they have a right to feel all the times.
- Children recognise the first physical signs indicating that they need to take extra care and think clearly.
- Children learn to distinguish between the "fun scared" feeling of adventure and appropriate risk taking and the "scared" feeling of danger which is not okay.
- Children use their own skills to help themselves feel safe again whenever they can.
- That all who come to visit the education and care service, adults as well as children, find it a safe place to be or visit.

Beliefs

- Children are people who feel the same range of emotions as adults.
- Children's emotions are real, and need to be expressed and accepted by adults.
- That the response of adults to children's early expressions of feelings is a vital component in the development of trust, self-esteem, and self-confidence.
- When the responses of adults "match" the expressed needs of the child, healthy communication is encouraged.
- That being in charge of feelings is an important component in the process of developing self-confidence and responsibility.
- That there are physical sensations which occur in response to various emotional states – including fear.
- Young children are very aware of the signals which their bodies give them in these situations.
- Adults have the power to enhance or destroy the child's responsiveness to these signals.
- Children who retain and enhance their responsiveness to their body signals are more able to foresee possible threatening situations, and avoid them, or ask for help.

***"We all have the right to feel safe all the time".
"Nothing is so awful that we can't talk about it with someone we can trust".***

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
National Quality Standards 2011
Children's and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Who is affected by this policy?

Children
Parents
Staff
Management

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Children's and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011
Protective Behaviours Consultancy Group of NSW www.protective-behaviours.org.au

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 26 October 2016

Date for next review: October 2017