

Policy
Policy Category: CURRICULUM
Date Created: 20 October 2002
Policy Name: Child Behaviour Policy



‘Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it’ - Prov 22:6

The purpose of this operational policy is to ensure that there are procedures to encourage social competence in children

Position Statement

We aim to teach and nurture children in a loving, caring, stimulating, fun and safe environment, seeking their growth in all areas of life, both physical and spiritual.

Issue Outline

Shaping a child's behaviour is an essential part of the role of the centre. Our policy will ensure that inappropriate behaviour is eliminated or reoccurrence is reduced. Appropriate behaviour is acknowledged and recognised.

Detail

We do this by –

1. Providing a safe and secure learning environment.
2. Encouraging the children to show respect for God and His Word, respect for themselves, others, nature and property.
3. Clearly defining the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
4. Helping children to appreciate that their behaviour has consequences and that they are accountable for their behaviour.
5. Guiding children in an understanding of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
6. Involving parents with the ongoing implementation of this Policy.

Staff will model respect towards each other and the children. The children in turn will learn to respect the staff and other children. Children will be encouraged with positive reinforcement for good behaviour, ie. focusing on and praising positive behaviour. Having an interesting range of activities throughout the day and providing alternatives to unacceptable behaviour will also encourage positive behaviour e.g. physical play, throwing balls, etc.

Clearly defining the acceptable and unacceptable boundaries of behaviour expected by children will be affirmed by staff throughout the day. This will help the children to feel secure and happy in this environment.

Types of behaviour that are not acceptable at this Kindergarten:

- name calling, teasing, swearing, blasphemy
- physically hurting another person
- damaging or defacing equipment or resources or the natural environment
- disrespectful behaviour towards others

Procedure

A. In all cases of unacceptable behaviour the other party involved needs to be acknowledged, comforted and reassured first. First Aid may be required.

B. Ways of dealing with unacceptable behaviour are -

Getting down to the child's level:

1. VERBAL REBUKE

- short statement to gain child's attention – "Fred stop"
- Statement of Kindergarten rule "It's not okay to throw sand."
- Reason given "It hurts if you get sand in your eyes"

IF BEHAVIOUR CONTINUES

The child is redirected to another activity or comes under the direct supervision of another educator.

2. REDIRECTION

Redirection can be used at different stages of the disciplinary procedure, e.g.

- To avert a situation where unacceptable behaviour may occur, eg. running, emulating some of the less desirable tv programmes. The teacher will redirect in a non-punitive manner.
- To be used with children who may not have an understanding of acceptable behaviour, eg. instead of playing with water in the bathroom basin they are redirected to water play outside.

3. DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION

- Helps the teacher get to the crux of the problem.
- Helps the child (ren) to resolve the problem.
- Where appropriate, the child (ren) will apologise for the specific behaviour. The apology will be acknowledged and forgiveness will be encouraged.

4. TIME AWAY

Only to be used for behaviour that is deemed to be serious and where the child has ignored a number of warnings. Before time out is used, teachers are to ask for support from another teacher (e.g at mat time.) In this case the child is sent away from where they were playing to sit in full view of a staff member for 2 to 3 minutes.

Either before or after 'time away' a staff member will discuss with the child what behaviour necessitated the time away and what changes the child can make next time the situation arises. Staff can then look for opportunities to praise the child for changes in the child's behaviour.

C. INFORMING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Contact regarding the incident will be made by the head teacher with the relevant parents /caregivers if it is deemed serious.

Parents/caregivers will be kept informed if unacceptable behaviour persists and staff together with the parents/caregivers will work to find a solution.

D. A member of the Kindergarten's staff or volunteer may not –

- (a) use harsh language, belittling or degrading responses;
- (b) physically ill-treat a child;
- (c) in guiding or controlling a child; subject the child to solitary confinement, immobilisation, or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter or protection.

E. FURTHER ACTION

Where unacceptable behaviour is ongoing –

1. the matter is raised at a staff meeting,
2. the head teacher will speak to the parents,
3. further action will be agreed upon with the parents' knowledge and support.

Where necessary:

- a. An action plan will be put in place to deal with the behaviour and/or
- b. Group Special Education will be contacted, with the consent of the parents.

Alignment with Other Policies

- Child Protection Policy
- Enrolment procedures

Relevant Background (including legislation/regulation references)

Education (ECC) Regulations 1998

Management Practice for Child Behaviour (Clause 33)

Child Protection Legislation Education Act

Licensing Criteria 2008, Curriculum, Children as Learners documentation required:

- C10: a process for providing positive guidance to encourage social competence in children.

Impacts of Policy on Staff, Parents and Children

Failure to implement this policy can lead to:

- Negative, harmful and destructive interactions
- Poor modelling of behaviour
- Development of severe behaviour problems
- Criminal charges of staff
- Upset parents/complaints/child withdrawal

Alignment with the Philosophy of Avondale Christian Kindergarten

This policy is aligned with our centre's philosophy.

Implications and/or Risks for Avondale Christian Kindergarten

Risk of loss of centre licence.

Implementation

All staff are responsible for enacting this policy. The Manager will ensure staff are adequately trained, monitor staff and take action where inappropriate discipline is used.

Review

To be reviewed annually or when there is a significant change in the area of the policy topic. nd

Review Schedule	
Reviewed:	August 2016
Next Review Date:	August 2017
Person Responsible for Review:	Manager
Consultation with:	ACK Board, Parents, Staff
Person Responsible for Authorising Policy Review:	ACK Board
Person Responsible for Notifying those Implementing Policy:	Manager
Person Responsible for Implementing Policy:	Head Teacher, Staff