

INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN POLICY

Applies to: All staff, Manager, clients, stakeholders, Management Committee and Volunteers/Students.

Specific responsibility: All staff, Manager, Management Committee

Version: 1

Date approved: 28.02.2017

Next review date: 28.02.2019

Policy context: This policy relates to:

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| Standards or other external requirements | National Disability Standards in Action: Standard 1: Rights Standard 2: Participation & Inclusion Standard 3: Individual Outcomes Standard 4: Feedback and Complaints Standard 5: Service Access Standard 6: Service Management ECIA Best Practice in Early Intervention Guidelines Principles from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Quality Framework (NQF), implemented by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) - Early Years Framework |
| Legislation or other requirements | - Children's Services Regulations 2004 |
| Contractual obligations | - ADHC/DEC |

POLICY STATEMENT:

At Early Connections - Port Macquarie/Hastings interactions will be warm, respectful, supportive and responsive, promoting a sense of security and belonging. All children will be supported to learn and develop in a secure and empowering environment.

Strong relationships are built upon good communication and this relies on effective interactions. To create positive and communicative relationships you must value the time you spend interacting and talking with children.

PROCEDURE:

All staff will:

- Give each child the opportunity to express themselves, make choices and offer their opinions.
- Give children opportunities to become increasingly self-reliant and to develop self-esteem.
- Provide guidance towards developing positive and responsible behaviour towards others and themselves.
- Engage in encouraging, responsive interactions. They will provide a positive role model, using facial expressions and body language in an encouraging manner.

- Use play and appropriate activities and tasks to encourage interactions.
- Ensure that each child's cultural background, age, physical skills and intellectual development are considered in regards to all activities, tasks and interactions.
- Ensure that children are not subject to any interaction which intimidates, threatens or humiliates.
- Ensure that each child's family and cultural values are respected by staff.
- Ensure that each child's goals and outcomes are encouraged through appropriate play and therapy activities.
- Ensure that each child can access facilities with appropriate support and any specialized equipment required where appropriate. All children will be fully included in all activities in an appropriate manner.
- Ensure that the Early Childhood Code of Ethics is adhered to by all staff in all interactions with children and families.
- Ensure that inclusive practices are encouraged and advocated for in all community environments.

Staff at Early Connections - Port Macquarie/Hastings work closely with families by coaching and modelling strategies. Staff will encourage families to adopt positive interactions with their children.

DOCUMENTATION

| Documents related to this policy | |
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| Related policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive Guidance and Behaviour Policy - Case Management Policy - Child Protection Policy |
| Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents | |

| Reviewing and approving this policy | | |
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| Frequency | Person responsible | Approval |
| Every 2 Years | Manager and Management Committee | Management Committee |

| Policy review and version tracking | | | |
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| Review | Date Approved | Approved by | Next Review Due |
| 1 | 28.02.2017 | Management Committee | 28.02.2019 |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |