

INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN POLICY

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| Applies to: Staff Members, clients, stakeholders, Management Committee and Volunteers/Student. |
| Specific responsibility: All Staff, Manager and Management Committee. |

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| Version: 6 |
| Date approved: 28 th Aug 2020 |
| Next review date: Aug 2023 |

Policy context: To ensure that all interactions with children are positive and encourage children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem and a positive self-image.

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| Standards or other external requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Disability Insurance Scheme Guidelines (Quality Indicators)2018 - National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 - National Disability Insurance Scheme (Incident Management & Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018 - ECIA Best Practice in Early Intervention Guidelines <p>Principles from:</p> <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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDIS Terms of Business for Registered Providers - National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 |
| Contractual obligations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment Agreements - Client Service Agreements and Schedule of Supports - NDIS Service Registered Service Provider obligations - DoE (Sector Capacity Building project contract) Funding Terms and Conditions (Funding Agreement) |

POLICY STATEMENT:

At Early Connections - Manning and Great Lakes 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 behavior 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 regard 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 - Manning and Great Lakes work closely with families by coaching and modelling strategies. Staff, will encourage at all times that families adopt positive interactions with their children.

DOCUMENTATION

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

| Reviewing and approving this policy | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Frequency | Person responsible | Approval |
| Annually | Manager and Management Committee | Management Committee |

| Policy review and version tracking | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Review | Date Approved | Approved by | Next Review Due |
| 1 | October 2014 | Management Committee | Sept 2015 |
| 2 | 26 th August 2015 | Management Committee | Sept 2016 |
| 3 | July 2016 | Management Committee | July 2017 |
| 4 | 17 th Feb 2017 | Management Committee | Feb 2018 |
| 5 | 18 th Apr 2019 | Management Committee | Apr 2020 |
| 6 | 26 th Aug 2020 | Management Committee | Aug 2023 |

Management Committee: Aug 2020

Signed:

Name: Michelle Richardson

Date: 26-Aug-2020

