

INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN POLICY

Policy and Procedure Number: PO.013.EC

Applies to: All Staff, Managers, Management Committee and Volunteers / Students

Specific responsibility: Management team and all employees working directly with children

Policy context: this policy relates to the following

Standards or other external requirements	Work Health & Safety Act 2012(State) Work Health & Safety Regulations 2012(State) National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 National Disability Insurance Scheme Guidelines (Quality Indicators) 2018 National Disability Insurance Scheme (Incident Management & Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018 National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018 NDIS Terms of Business for Registered Providers NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework, 2016 NDIS Code of Conduct for Workers 2018 Children and Young Person (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (State)
Legislation or other requirements	Employment Agreements NDIS Service Registered Service Provider obligations Legislation governing <i>child</i> protection and <i>child</i> wellbeing services in NSW. The <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i> (the Act)
Contractual obligations	NDIS Service Agreements
Best Practice	ECIA Best Practice in Early Intervention Guidelines. https://www.preci.org.au/practice-guidelines/ Principles from ACECQA : The National Quality Standards and Framework https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard

POLICY STATEMENT:

At Early Connections – Coffs Coast interactions with children 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, compassionate and empowering environment.

Strong relationships are built upon genuine connections, secure attachment, good communication and this relies on effective interactions. To create positive and communicative relationships we all must value the time we spend interacting and talking with children.

PROCEDURE:

The Early Connections team 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 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.
- ✓ Work with children and families using the principles of Positive Behaviour Support, a tiered approach to prevention and intervention within an early childhood context and use strategies that assist to determine the function or purpose of challenging behaviours.
- ✓ Work with children and families in natural environments to develop practical strategies aimed at increasing the participation of children with additional needs into their communities with a focus on improving social engagement, turn taking / sharing, flexibility, emotional regulation, positive relationships and connection.
- ✓ 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	- Positive Guidance and Behaviour Management Policy - Client Management - Service Plan Policy - Child Protection Policy's
Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents	Service Agreements Complaints and Feedback Form

Reviewing and approving this policy		
Frequency	Person responsible	Approval
3 years	Manager and Management Committee	Management Committee

Policy review and version tracking			
Review	Date Approved	Approved by	Next Review Due
1	4.12.2017	Management Committee	May 2020
2	25/07/2022	Management Committee	July 2025
3	28/02/2024	Management Committee	Feb 2027

Management Committee Approved

Name: Vicki Braine – President

Date: 28/02/2024