

# RESPECT FOR CHILDREN POLICY

Within an Out of School Hours Care community, many different relationships are negotiated with and between children, educators and families. The way in which these relationships are established and maintained, and the way in which they remain visible, impacts on how the early childhood community functions. Relationships directly affect how children form their own identity, whether they feel safe and supported, and ultimately, their sense of belonging.

## National Quality Standard (NQS)

| QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 5.1   | Relationships between educators and children | Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.  |
| 5.1.1                                       | Positive educator to child interactions      | Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.             |
| 5.1.2                                       | Dignity and rights of the child              | The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.   |
| 5.2   | Relationships between children               | Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.   |
| 5.2.1                                       | Collaborative learning                       | Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.  |
| 5.2.2                                       | Self-Regulation                              | Each child is supported to regulate their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts. |

| EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 155  | Interactions with children |
| 156  | Relationships in groups    |

## RELATED POLICIES

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| Additional Needs Policy<br>Anti-Bias & Inclusion Policy<br>Celebrations Policy<br>Child Protection Policy<br>Children's Belongings Policy<br>Clothing Policy<br>Educational Program Policy | Family Communication Policy<br>Gender Equity Policy<br>Interactions with Children, Family and Staff Policy<br>Medical Conditions Policy<br>Photograph Policy<br>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy |
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## PURPOSE

My Time Our Place (MTOP) highlights educators' relationships with children as central to supporting their learning. Principle 1 in MTOP is about secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships.

The Framework requires educators to respect and work with children's unique qualities, abilities and interests, giving children choices and control as they experience the connects between actions and consequences.

Our philosophy guides our interactions and relationships with children. We aim to ensure all educators develop positive relationships with children based on respect and fostering children's self-esteem and development.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the OSHC Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

All children have a right to feel accepted and respected. This is a principle set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention emphasises the importance of children developing connections to culture and community as a means of fostering a strong sense of personal identity and belonging.

We aim for children to feel safe and secure and we believe in forming strong attachments and connections with educators, children and families at the OSHC Service. Educators employed at the Service will use teaching techniques and strategies to establish positive relationships with children and their families, working in conjunction with the National Quality Standard as we build supportive relationships with children.

By teaching respect for cultural diversity, Educators will assist children to:

- provide a comfortable and happy environment
- respect each child's uniqueness, displaying appreciation and respect for children as individuals
- use a positive and non-threatening tone when interacting with children in all situations
- ensure mealtimes / snack times are relaxed and unhurried
- sit with children during mealtimes / snack times, engaging in respectful conversations
- never force a child to do something against their requests: This includes-rest, eat, participation in group experiences and activities.

- role model respect to children in everyday dealings with both adults and children
- endeavour to be aware of each individual child's values, culture and feelings, and respond appropriately
- encourage children to initiate conversations about their experiences at home encouraging them to express their ideas and feelings
- encourage children to request assistance when taking on new challenges, inspiring children's independence and confidence
- regularly reflect on their relationships and interactions with children and how these can be improved to benefit each child
- inspire, encourage and accept each child and encourage them to do the same with their peers by actively:
  - fostering each child's construction of a knowledgeable, confident self-identity.
  - fostering each child's comfortable, empathetic interactions with a diverse range of people.
  - fostering each child's critical thinking about bias, and to question and enquire.
  - fostering each child's ability to stand up for herself/himself and others in the face of bias.
- respond respectfully and appropriately to children's attempts as they participate and converse in sustained conversation about their interests
- implement a predictable routine for children with interest-based activities and experiences
- provide a range of planned and spontaneous experiences for children to challenge and maximise learning opportunities.
- use a variety of communication strategies inclusive of verbal and non-verbal cues to support the development of relationships with children
- support children's home language when communicating and interacting to build trust and positive relationships
- respect children and families' diversity and the development of cultural competency within the OSHC Service
- support children and build secure attachments through a collaborative partnership with families
- encourage children to develop confidence in their ability to express themselves
- encourage children to work through differences appropriately and with guidance where necessary
- respect each child's uniqueness and communicate that respect to the child.

## Source

Dau, E. (Ed.) (2016). *The multi-bias approach in early childhood* (2nd Ed.). Frenchs Forest, Australia: Pearson Education.

Department of Education, Skills and Employment. (2011). *My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia*.

Education and Care National Regulations. (2011).

Kearns, K. (2017). *The Business of Childcare* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Australia: Cengage learning Australia.

Revised National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).

Stonehouse, A. (2012). Relationships with children:

UN General Assembly. (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child. Simplified version available at

<https://www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Our%20work/childfriendlycrc.pdf>

## REVIEW

| POLICY REVIEWED | SEPTEMBER 2020   | NEXT REVIEW DATE | SEPTEMBER 2021   |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| MODIFICATIONS   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy checked for currency- regulations, referencing.</li> <li>• inserted page numbers</li> </ul>  |                  |                  |
| POLICY REVIEWED | PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS   |                  | NEXT REVIEW DATE |
| SEPTEMBER 2019  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar, punctuation and spelling edited.</li> <li>• Sources checked for currency and correct URLs.</li> <li>• Sources/references corrected, updated, and alphabetised.</li> <li>• Related policies alphabetised.</li> <li>• Reference/source added (United Nations)</li> </ul> |                  | SEPTEMBER 2020   |
| SEPTEMBER 2018  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Policy created to ensure respectful relationships are being incorporated into the Out of School Hours Community</li> </ul>  |                  | SEPTEMBER 2019   |