

INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN POLICY

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all interactions between children and staff are in adherence with our Centre Philosophy and are in tune with the overall wellbeing of each child.

IMPLEMENTATION:

At Elder Street we are very proud of the way in which are staff interact with the children. We believe that any interaction between a child and staff member can have a profound effect on the child's self esteem and overall development. We as educators and carers understand the very privileged and responsible position that we hold in each child's life and therefore aim to care and educate each child through interactions that are meaningful, caring, respectful, warm and friendly. By doing this we hope to pass on the same values and attitudes to the children in their own future interactions.

Child psychologist, Dr Louise Porter highlights the importance of early interactions when she states:

"From the earliest days of life, children learn about themselves from your reaction to them. They build your feedback into a picture of the type of people they are. Later, they take in the reactions of other important people in their lives. Together, all this information forms their self concept."

Children are People Too – Dr L Porter

In implementing this policy we adhere to the following key points for reference and guidance:

All interactions with children need to ensure that all children:

- are encouraged to express themselves and their opinions
- are given the opportunity to become self reliant and to develop self esteem;
- are given guidance as to positive and responsible behaviour;
- have their dignity and rights maintained at all times, specifically excluding any child management techniques that include punishment that humiliates, frightens or threatens them,
- not isolated for any reason other than illness or a pre arranged appointment with parental consent;
- have their family's values acknowledged and respected;
- have support offered if regarding children's learning experiences;
- are given emotional support;
- are not required to sleep or rest against the child's wishes or needs
- interacted with in a warm and friendly manner.

Developed: 22 February 2006
Reviewed: 10 September 2008
Source: Children's Services Regulation 2004
Children are People Too – Dr L Porter. 4th Ed. 2001. East