



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE POLICY

RATIONALE:

At Akoranga Preschool, adults model pro-social skills. Respect, affection, acceptance, self-confidence, and self-regulation are our daily goals for empowering each child. At Akoranga Preschool we recognise that while negotiating the complex social world to communicate their needs with others, tamariki may exhibit behaviours that are not appropriate. We endeavour to support all tamariki to express themselves and their feelings in a way which ensures Akoranga Preschool remains a safe environment for everybody. Our philosophy is that each child has unique individual potential which requires nurturing through effective and gentle guidance.

TE WHĀRIKI

Belonging/ Mana whenua - Goal 4: Tamariki experience an environment where they know the limits and boundaries of acceptable behaviour.

PROCEDURES

- Developmental understandings, expectations, urges, space, and the setup of the environment, will be taken into consideration when supporting positive behaviour guidance for tamariki.
- Kaiako will support tamariki by observing them, to understand reasons, triggers and impulses behind the behaviours and support as appropriate.
- Kaiako will ensure that the physical needs of any child are being met so that behaviours are not being triggered by any form of distress - such as hunger, tiredness, or physical discomfort.
- Kaiako will work together with Whanau to individualise behaviour guidance plans where appropriate.
- Kaiako will provide choices within clear and appropriate boundaries, ensuring that Akoranga Preschool remains an empowering, safe, and predictable environment for all. Whanau and Kaiako are encouraged to avoid unnecessary and baseless rules, or limits, which may cause friction in adult-child partnerships.
- Kaiako will always talk calmly in terms of choices and behaviour, i.e., “appropriate behaviour or unacceptable behaviour”. In this way the behaviour and choices were inappropriate and

not the individual child. This will ensure that the child in question remains secure in their self-worth, bonds, and attachments at Akoranga Preschool.

- Kaiako recognise the need for consistency in dealing with all inappropriate behaviour.
- Akoranga Preschool is a “no hitting and no shouting” zone. This applies to tamariki, Kaiako, whānau, and visitors to the centre.
- Tamariki and Whanau are encouraged to leave toys such as guns and swords, at home. If tamariki choose imaginary weapon play, Kaiako will ensure the play is adult-supported and safe.
- A calm and peaceful manner will be used by Kaiako to ensure that the dignity and mana of all tamariki is upheld, and respected, and behavioural expectations are role modelled.
- Literature will be made available to support whānau where requested.

STRATEGIES FOR GUIDING BEHAVIOUR

- In a situation where a child may be at risk of causing emotional or physical pain to one of their peers, Kaiako will intervene. This intervention will be based on an assessment of the situation and may involve:
 - Providing space and time for ngā tamariki to make appropriate choices by asking them to explain what is happening, then providing them some options of possible alternative ways of approaching the situation.
 - The promotion of peaceful problem-solving strategies, empowering all ngā tamariki involved: “You sound frustrated by _____. You could ask for some space/ them to stop/ a turn when they are finished”, etc.
 - Providing a physical barrier, “I cannot let you [push/hit/kick/bite] _____”
 - Redirection of behaviour to an appropriate learning experience, “I see you are wanting to kick, let's go find some balls/ I see you are wanting to push, let's go push a wall or tower”, etc.
- Support the child to self-regulate through co-regulation and wait for him/her to become calm before the situation can be discussed. Ensure that the discussion is clear, concise and conveys a consistent message.
- Always offer the child an explanation of why certain behaviour is unacceptable and inform the child of the desired behaviour.
- Allow the child time to correct his/her behaviour, i.e., by approaching the situation and asking, “what’s happening here?”, then offering choices to the child on how to try things differently.
- Depending on the situation, and the age of the child, Kaiako may remove the toy or object that is central to the inappropriate behaviour after a warning has been given.
- If during peer conflict a child has been hurt, the attention of the Kaiako will be mainly focused on this child, in caring for them and ensuring they feel better. Kaiako will empower tamariki to build resilience and strategies to protect themselves in the future.
- Following a conflict, tamariki will be encouraged to care for or re-build the relationship with their peer through their actions as a way of apology.

Extremely inappropriate behaviour may result in one-on-one time i.e., if behaviour is distracting or upsetting other tamariki, a Kaiako will go with the child and together they will have some time away from the other tamariki to regulate their behaviour.

LINKS TO:

- Unsafe Behaviour Policy
- Aggressive/Intimidating Play Policy
- Strategic Plan (budget) – further training for positive guidance

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Reference – Childspace NZ policies