

## **INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN**

**AIM:** To encourage and promote opportunities for quality interactions with, and between children, so that children feel safe, secure and supported.

To ensure maintenance of the dignity and rights of children.

To comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011, specifically Part 4.5 Relationships with Children, clause 155, Interactions with Children, and, clause 156, Relationships in Groups.

**RATIONALE:** The relationship between educators, staff, parents and children is an important aspect of Family Day Care. Children who are secure in their relationship with their educator will be more confident in their learning and feel more relaxed while in care.

Children who experience relationships that are built on respect, fairness, cooperation and empathy are given the opportunity to develop these qualities themselves. When children have positive experiences of interactions they develop an understanding of themselves as significant and respected, and feel a sense of belonging.

### **POLICY:**

1. Educators will provide an atmosphere that is generally relaxed and happy for the children attending the service.
  
2. Educators and staff will communicate with all children in ways that convey understanding and respect. Educators will, at every opportunity, have friendly interactions with all children individually and respond to them warmly. They shall have meaningful conversation with individual children in care each day, in ways that encourage the children to express themselves and their opinions.
  
3. Educators and staff are to respond positively to all children requiring their attention. They will be responsive to children's needs and use a positive approach to guidance and discipline with a clear set of realistic, age appropriate guidelines for children's behaviour developed in consultation with parents. Educators will use positive guidance and encouragement to assist children to develop self-reliance and self-esteem and achieve positive behaviour.
  
4. Educators will respond to their own children and to Family Day Care children in a fair and consistent manner. They will treat all children equally, respecting differences and accommodating individual needs without bias.
  
5. Educators and staff will be responsive to children's feelings and their needs so that children can develop a sense of security and trust in others. They will show regard for family and cultural values, age, physical and intellectual development and abilities of each child. They need to have an awareness of the background of each child and respond to them in a sensitive and appropriate manner.
  
6. Educators and staff will encourage children to communicate respectfully and courteously to each other, listen to one another's ideas and acknowledge each child's uniqueness in positive ways.

7. Educators and staff will show respect for children and their efforts as developing individuals and encourage independence when appropriate.
8. Educators and staff will interact and be actively involved with children to stimulate their curiosity and thinking by sharing ideas, experiences and asking questions.
9. Educators will assist children to make positive transitions between home and care and to reunite happily with their families.
10. Educators and staff will role model respectful and courteous interactions in their dealings with each other.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010:*

*Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:*

**Key Resources:**

DEEWR (2009). *Belonging Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au)