

5.1 INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN

Policy Statement:

Educators and scheme staff endeavour to build positive, respectful and equitable relationships with children, that are maintained in a way that:

- encourages children to express themselves and their opinions;
- allows children to undertake experiences that develop self-reliance and self-esteem;
- maintains at all times the dignity and rights of children; gives each child positive guidance; and
- has regard to the family and cultural values, age and physical and intellectual development and abilities of each child being educated and cared for by the service.

Background:

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place in relation to interactions with children.

Legislative Requirements:

Section/regulation	Description
Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children.
Section 166	Offence to use inappropriate discipline.
Section 168	Offence related to required programs.
Section 169	Offence relating to staffing arrangements.
Regulation 73	Educational Program.
Regulation 84	Awareness of child protection law.
Regulation 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision.
Regulation 118	Educational Leader.
Regulation 123A	Family day care co-ordinator to educator ratios.
Regulation 124	Number of children who can be educated and cared for.
Regulation 127	Family day care educator qualifications.
Regulation 143A	Minimum requirements for family day care educator.
Regulation 155	Interactions with children.
Regulation 156	Relationships in groups.
Regulation 163	Residents at family day care residence and family day care educator assistants to be fit and proper persons.
Regulation 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures.
Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed.
Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available.
Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies and procedures.

Procedures:

1. The family day care educator will endeavour to ensure the atmosphere of the family day care service is relaxed and happy.
2. Throughout the day each child is engaged with the family day care educator in meaningful, open interactions that support the acquisition of skills for life and learning.
3. The family day care educator will ensure routines such as mealtimes, toileting, nappy change and rest times are relaxed, unhurried and are used for positive interactions with individual children.
4. The family day care educator will participate in and treat respectfully children's play and projects.
5. Interactions with each child are warm, responsive and build trusting relationships.
6. Children's efforts to communicate are responded to sensitively and appropriately, supporting the child to feel safe, secure and confident.
7. The family day care educator will support each child to work with, learn from and help others through collaborative learning opportunities.
8. The family day care educator will support each child to manage their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and to communicate effectively to resolve conflict.
9. The family day care educator will respond positively and respectfully to children's comments, questions and requests for assistance.
10. The dignity and rights of every child will be maintained at all times.

Date Implemented	Review Due	Date Reviewed	Date Updated	Source
2018 July	2020 January 2021 September 2023 March 2025 January	2021 September	2020 March 2023 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010• Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011