

Rostrevor Kindergarten Behaviour Guidance Policy

National Quality Standard 5.1, 5.2 Regulation 168 (2) (j) Related Key Regulations: 155, 156

Our Behaviour guidance policy outlines the implementation of guidance measures to ensure that children, families and staff have a safe environment, consistency and clarity around acceptable behaviour.

Children come to Rostrevor from a range of social and cultural backgrounds and with a variety of knowledge and behaviours. Young children need time, opportunity and space to learn how to play with others, share, take turns and care for themselves, others, and their environment. At Rostrevor Kindy we promote a caring and sharing philosophy based on empathy care and respect. As educators we play a significant role in shaping children's thinking and behaviour, now and into the future.

At Rostrevor Kindergarten we believe:

- Children, families and staff have the right to be safe and to be treated with respect
- Children learn best when they experience success and have positive self-esteem
- Educators work alongside families to guide children's behaviour towards positive interactions with others.

We acknowledge that children are learning to express and handle feelings and emotions appropriately.

As a staff team we:

- Value children as individuals
- Support children in being responsible for managing their behaviour
- Explicitly teach and model appropriate behaviours
- Strive to use a positive approach to behaviour management in consideration of children's individual needs.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for themselves, others and the environment.
- Provide opportunity and time for discussion and problem solving
- Support children to recognise and express their feelings in an appropriate manner.
- Have adults who are consistent and follow through when supporting children in their behaviour choices.
- Ensure educators provide child friendly programs relevant for children
- Educate to promote a growth mindset environment for children to experience failure and success
- Encourage children to manage their interactions with others to teach responsibility for their actions. Children need to practice making choices and managing the consequences of their choices.
- Provide all staff and relievers an environment that enables both active and quiet spaces
- Provide copies of this policy and inform staff about any children with special behaviour needs.
- Reflect on children's behaviour and respond to individual needs.

Children will be involved through:

- Discussions about solving problems by talking to each other encouraging children's voice
- Using the "bucket filling program" which encourages positive wellbeing
- Agreed upon consequences for safe and un/safe behaviours
- Encouraging and supporting children to model behaviour for their peers.
- Protective behaviour strategies for safe bodies
- Programs integrate mindfulness and relaxation techniques

Families are involved through:

- Staff regularly communicating with families and initiating meetings if any concerns arise

As all children are individual, staff recognise that some children will need alternative approaches to managing behaviour. If unsafe behaviour is persistently repeated we will develop a behaviour management plan. Children with additional needs are supported by an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) which documents specific behaviour support strategies to be used. Any behaviour management plan /alternative approach will be negotiated with families and the Department for Education Support Services.

Rostrevor Kindergarten informs families about the Behaviour Policy on enrolment. When enrolling their child at Rostrevor Kindergarten, parents/carers agree to respect and adhere to the policy. Families will be asked to confirm that they have read and understand this policy by signing the Information and Consents Form at the time of enrolment (copies are available on the website or on request)

The Rostrevor Kindergarten Behaviour Policy is a dynamic document, reviewed annually by staff and families to meet the current needs of children.

Rostrevor Kindergarten has a duty of care to ensure that the working environment supports the emotional and mental wellbeing of its staff (The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1989).

Endorsed and ratified by Staff and Governing Council August 2018 (To be reviewed August 2019).

Signed  KATE LINNELL (Chairperson) Date 9/8/18

Additional Resources:

DECD: Supporting and Managing Children’s behaviour (An early childhood resource)

DECD: Behavior support policy (For early childhood services)

DECD Website: <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrensservices/pages/policies/interactions/>