

# Noarlunga Downs Preschool

## Interaction with Children Policy

### Our Vision:

Noarlunga Downs Preschool is a safe place for every child and family, where culture will develop and thrive. Partnerships and relationships are created together through staff, children, family and community education and learning. We will always aspire to reflect a socially just environment that values the identity of our community.

### Our guiding principles:

- Every voice needs to be heard through active listening
- We can learn from each other as we share knowledge and experiences
- We are committed to showing respect to all staff, children and families
- We want to be open minded to new ideas, and actively seek feedback about our service
- We expect staff ensure that confidentiality is an important quality of our centre
- Trust is the foundation of a good team when working with children and families
- We will deliver our programs and services with clarity and be transparent in our work practices
- Being kind to each other and ourselves when we experience conflict and disagreement.

At Noarlunga Downs Preschool, we believe that everyone has the right to feel safe at all times. Children learn best when they experience success and have a positive sense of self. No child should be made to feel rejected, insecure, embarrassed or ashamed.

We understand that children will sometimes feel angry, frustrated and upset and will need support to express these feelings appropriately. We believe that children have the right to communicate these feelings and be supported to develop positive behaviours that underpin the development of respectful relationships with peers and adults.

Noarlunga Downs Preschool and families work together, sharing responsibility, being consistent, creating a safe and secure environment for children and modelling appropriate behaviours. Effective communication and learning occurs when families and educators work together to develop common goals for a child's wellbeing, learning and development.

We believe that relationships are at the core of understanding children's individual and contextual needs and are critical to learning and developing positive behaviours. At Noarlunga Downs Preschool, family consultation and communication is valued and individual perspectives respected.

As a staff team we view children as capable and competent learners. We will support positive behaviours and interactions by:

- planning for and providing an environment that promotes a sense of belonging, being and becoming and provides enhanced opportunities for learning through play



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- providing an enriching and engaging program that enables each child to experience success, a sense of wellbeing and gives opportunities to communicate feeling through sensory and other forms of play
- planning opportunities for the development of skills including resilience, agency, entry and exit skills when playing, transitions, risk taking, restorative practices, independence, leadership, respect for others and communication
- treating all children with respect and dignity
- Keeping children safe physically and emotionally.

We will respond to behaviours by:

- reminding children of expectations and limits and the reasons for these
- supporting children to problem solve, negotiate, find resolutions and manage emotions appropriately
- using restorative justice practices that support children to empathise with others and restore relationships
- communicating with and involving families at the earliest opportunity to work together positively to assist the child's wellbeing and learning
- assessing individual children's learning environment to ensure it supports positive behaviours
- planning, documenting, implementing, monitoring and reviewing individual behaviour plans in partnership with families and support services
- being aware of our limitations and seeking assistance when required
- moving children away from a situation where they are at risk of hurting themselves or others and offering them alternative choices so they feel like they are in control of their behaviour, ensuring that an adult is with them at all times.

**Updated:** March 2023

**Approved by:** Approved by Governing Council

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**Sourced:** Restorative Justice, support services, staff, families, and the community, Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017

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