

Children come to preschool from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds and with a variety of knowledge and behaviours. Young children need time, opportunity and space to learn with other children, how to play, share, take turns and care for others as well as their environment.

At Mawson Lakes Preschool 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
- Behaviour changes more quickly when it is handled in a positive manner

We acknowledge that children feel angry, frustrated and upset at times and need help to express feelings 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
- Provide opportunities for children to take risks and experience success
- Encourage children to take responsibility
- Provide opportunity and time for discussion and problem solving
- Help children to recognise and express their feelings in an appropriate manner
- Make learning relevant and manageable for children
- Are consistent and follow through when supporting children in their behaviour choices

Helping children manage their interactions and reactions to others teaches responsibility for their actions. Our aim is for all children to be responsible for their own behaviour. Children need to practice making choices and managing the consequences of their choices, both positive and negative.

Strategies we use to minimise unsafe behaviours include:

- Discussing safety in the preschool and involve the children in setting rules and expectations
- Encouraging and supporting children to "Use Words" to encourage problem solving, listening and to be aware of the rights of others
- Working alongside children to model appropriate behaviour and discuss consequences of unsafe behaviour
- Providing spaces in the preschool for quiet activities that can be completed independently – giving the child a chance to calm down
- Providing a safe area for 'thinking time'. Thinking time is carefully managed by staff and includes a staff member 'debriefing' with the child about what has occurred. Alternative solutions are discussed and the child is then supported to re enter play.
- If needed, staff will withdraw children when they are at risk of hurting themselves or others, ensuring that an adult is with them all the time.

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 NEP or ILP which documents specific behaviour support strategies to be used. Any Behaviour Management plan/alternative approach will be negotiated with families and DECD Support Services.

Involving Children

Children need to be actively involved in setting boundaries and negotiating agreed values and codes of behaviour. Staff will involve children in:

- Discussions about safe and unsafe play
- Documenting agreed consequences for unsafe/inappropriate behaviours
- Encouraging and supporting children to model appropriate behaviours for their peers

Involving Families

- Information about the site behaviour code will be given to new families as part of the preschool enrolment process
- Parents can request a time to talk to staff about our Site Behaviour Code at any time
- Staff will regularly communicate positive behaviour to families.
- Staff will initiate discussions with parents when children are consistently disregarding rules or in instances of severe or escalating behaviour to work together and develop strategies to develop appropriate behaviour.

Supporting our Site Behaviour Code

Staff and parents need to share responsibility by being consistent at all times and modelling appropriate behaviours. Families can help staff by:

- Reading our Policy and returning the tear off slip at the end of the Parent Handbook as acknowledgement and support
- Talking to staff about any changes in your child's environment that may cause distress or changes in behaviour.
- Working with staff to increase positive behaviour where there is an issue.



Mawson Lakes Preschool Policy Statement

Site Behaviour Code



Staff can help support the Site Behaviour Code by

- Being informed about the Site Behaviour Code
- Contributing to discussions about maximising positive behaviour
- Contributing to reviewing the Behaviour Code
- Teaching and modelling appropriate behaviour
- Maintaining confidentiality about behaviour issues.
- New staff including relievers will be provided with a copy of our Site Behaviour Code and informed about any children with special behaviour needs.

References

DECS - Behaviour Support Policy for Early Childhood Services (2004)

http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced/files/links/33098_Childrens_Policy_12p.pdf

National Quality Standard 5.1, 5.2 (2011)

http://acecqa.gov.au/storage/1-DE_03_National%20Quality%20Standard_v8_Secn2.pdf