

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. Children's behaviour is shaped by their stage of development (physical, emotional and cultural), adult expectations (too much or too little) and any additional needs they may have. As educators we play a significant role in shaping children's thinking and behaviour, now and into the future.

At Mawson Lakes Preschool we believe

- All children, families and educators have the right to be safe and to be treated with respect
- All behaviour is a form of communication and should be acknowledged as such
- Children learn best when they experience success and have positive self-esteem
- Behaviour changes more quickly when it is handled in a positive manner
- The most effective learning occurs when families and educators work together to develop goals for a child's wellbeing, learning and development

We acknowledge that children feel angry, frustrated and upset at times and may need help to express feelings appropriately. As a staff team we:

- Value and respect children as individuals
- Support children in being responsible for managing their behaviour
- Use intentional teaching and modelling of appropriate behaviours and play skills
- Provide opportunities for children to take risks and experience success
- Encourage children to take responsibility
- Provide opportunities 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
- Provide clear and consistent expectations 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.

We promote positive behaviour choices by

- Providing an environment which promotes a sense of wellbeing and belonging for all children
- Providing learning opportunities which allow children to be successful
- Intentional and explicit teaching of positive behaviours and play skills
- Planning learning opportunities for the development of;
 - resilience,
 - a sense of agency and independence,
 - communication skills,
 - play entry and exit skills,
 - appropriate risk taking,
 - conflict resolution and respect for others
- Modelling positive interactions, using positive language and acknowledging children's efforts to do the same
- Involving children in developing our group norms, behaviour expectations and consequences
- Providing opportunities for children to express their needs and feelings in a safe and appropriate manner.

We respond to challenging behaviours by

- Reminding children of our agreed group norms, the reasons for these and discussing consequences of unsafe behaviour
- Working alongside children to model appropriate behaviour
- Providing quiet areas within the preschool environment for children to safely withdraw to – giving the child the time and space needed to calm down and re-enter play successfully
- Supporting children to manage potential conflicts through negotiation and problem solving
- Supporting children to manage their emotions appropriately
- Regularly reflecting on our planned curriculum program and how our environment can support positive behaviour and interactions between children

Mawson Lakes Preschool

Site Behaviour Code



- Providing a safe area for 'thinking time'. Thinking time is carefully managed by educators 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.
- Withdrawing children when they are at risk of hurting themselves or others, ensuring an adult is with them all the time.

At preschool children are learning to be social, how to be part of a group and know the accepted ways of playing, working and being with others. As they develop, children are learning to share, take turns, how to resolve conflicts, to listen, to play together, and to communicate and share their ideas. They don't always get it right, and some children need more support than others.

Involving Children

Children need to be actively involved in setting boundaries and negotiating our agreed group norms. Educators 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
- Encouraging families to talk to educators about our Site Behaviour Code at any time
- Encouraging open communication with families to ensure each child's behavioural and developmental needs are met
- Planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing children's individual behaviour plans in partnership with families and support services.

At preschool we acknowledge children as individuals and understand that each child will have different levels of understanding and will have experienced different rules and expectations.

If children are at risk of hurting themselves or others it may be necessary to restrain them by physically holding the child with care. If this should occur, the family will be informed. As a Department for Education site we do not use any forms of physical punishment with children at preschool. Children with special rights may have greater difficulty in self-regulation and understanding group norms. Educators will initiate discussions with families at the earliest opportunity when children are demonstrating unsafe or escalating behaviours to work together and develop strategies to support the child's learning and wellbeing.

Supporting our Site Behaviour Code

Educators and parents/caregivers need to share responsibility by being consistent at all times and modelling appropriate behaviours. Families can help the staff team by:

- Talking to educators about any changes in your child's environment that may cause distress or changes in behaviour
- Informing educators when they see inappropriate behaviours between children
- Working with educators to increase positive behaviour
- Reading our Policy and signing and returning the tear off slip as acknowledgement and support
- Adhering to the principles in our Site Behaviour Code while on site

Educator responsibilities

- Being informed about the Site Behaviour Code
- Contributing to discussions about maximising positive behaviour
- Teaching and modelling appropriate behaviour
- Maintaining confidentiality about children's behaviour
- New educators including relievers and volunteers will be provided with a copy of our Site Behaviour Code and informed about any children with special behaviour needs.
- Being aware of our limitations and seeking assistance when required
- Contributing to reviewing the Behaviour Code.

References

DECS - Supporting and Managing Children's Behaviour: An Early Childhood Resource (2004)

<https://myintranet.learnlink.sa.edu.au/results?query=behaviour+support+policy&collection=DECD-Intranet>

National Quality Standard 5.1(2011)

Mawson Lakes Preschool Site Behaviour Code



<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-5-relationships-with-children>

National Quality Standard 5.2

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-5-relationships-with-children>

Education and Care Services National Regulations – National Regulation 155

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653/chap4/part4.5/reg155>

Education and Care Services National Regulations - National Regulation 156

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653/chap4/part4.5/reg156>

Playgroup SA – Playgroup Guide – Section 6 Exchanging ideas and sharing parent info

<http://www.playgroupsa.com.au/services-playgroup-guide.html>

Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/doc/protective-practices-staff-their-interactions-children-and-young-people>