



DUNTROON COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.

BEHAVIOURAL POLICY

1. PLAYSCHOOL

It is important to state at the outset that behaviour management be regarded as mainly preventive, rather than responding to crises. The most important aspect of 'management' is to prevent problems from occurring in the first place by "providing a high-quality program and by meeting children's emotional and social needs as well as satisfying their intellectual drives." (Porter 199, p.2)

The development of problem solving, negotiation and conflict resolution skills will be fostered by all staff members as outlined in the ACT Playschools (Conditions for Approvals in Principle and Licences (Children's Services February 2003)).

"Guidance practices used in the playschool must:

- a. maintain the dignity and rights of the child at all times;
- b. preclude techniques which involve physical, verbal or emotional punishment; and
- c. not allow children to be isolated for any reason other than illness, accident or a pre-arranged appointment with parental consent".

By setting appropriate and consistent guidelines of behaviour we provide a secure environment in which children can explore their physical and social world. In setting guidelines for children, our aim is to:

- a. ensure that guidelines of behaviour are reasonable and can be met;
- b. be consistent in setting guidelines so that children are not confused by experiencing different approaches from each staff member;
- c. use words and actions to guide children;
- d. give brief explanations as to why guidelines are set; and
- e. be positive role models.

Strategies for Guidance of Children's Behaviour:

- a. encourage positive behaviour,
- b. offer alternatives to disruptive behaviour,
- c. distract or diffuse a situation and give attention to all parties involved,
- d. respond in a calm and firm manner and let the child know what the expectations are and the consequences of his/her actions,
- e. refer to the 'Playschool Rules' displayed in the playroom, and

- f. any significant behavioural problem which arises will be discussed with parents as soon as possible.

2. OTHER USERS OF THE CENTRE WITH CHILDREN (PLAYGROUP ETC)

The Centre follows the guidelines set out above for all groups which involve children. However, as parents are with their child/ren at this time there is always going to be differing opinions on what is appropriate behaviour. If any parent has a problem with another child's behaviour the Coordinator of that group is to be notified. The group Coordinator is to try to resolve the situation, if this cannot be done the group Coordinator is to notify the DCC Coordinator. Further information regarding grievance issues can be located in the DCC Grievance Policy and Procedures.