



SOCIAL COMPETENCY POLICY

Rationale

- To encourage all tamariki through positive reinforcement to develop appropriate behaviour and to be socially competent (C10).

Objectives

- To promote an environment where ideas of fairness, justice and reciprocity are valued and there are opportunities for tamariki to develop self-esteem and resilience

Procedures

Every taitamaiti is encouraged to become fully engaged in activities in a constructive manner through:

- A variety of activities will be available to the tamariki every day which will reflect individual taitamaiti's interests, our local curriculum and the emergent curriculum
- Kaiako will be aware of each taitamaiti's individual needs and will cater for these on a daily basis, incorporating ideas and suggestions made by whānau
- There will be space for tamariki to move and choose independently from one activity to another, as well as group times.
- Positive reinforcement will be given by kaiako to encourage tamariki to be engaged in a constructive manner
- Kaiako will plan activities/trips in the local area to accommodate for specific events, link to our focus/local curriculum and maintain tamariki's interest and enthusiasm
- Kaiako will embrace our local curriculum and daily routines to encourage all tamariki to have a sense of understanding, routine and belonging

Every taitamaiti is given respect and dignity through:

- Knowledge of all tamariki's names and pronouncing them properly
- Greeting every tamariki and their family as they arrive at the centre
- Being aware of individual needs and desires
- Showing respect for a tamariki's feelings
- Being aware of each taitamaiti's particular personality and special qualities through consultation with family and whānau
- Providing frequent opportunities for tamariki to make their own decisions and be self-reliant
- Having a right to be on their own, allowing and providing for solitary play
- Using a pleasant and interesting tone of voice when speaking with tamariki
- Avoid talking about individual tamariki by name in the presence of others
- Not "labeling" a taitamaiti
- Giving no taitamaiti the right to hurt another taitamaiti
- Giving no taitamaiti the right to destroy another taitamaiti's creation

- Not forcing verbal interaction and accepting the taitamaiti's response if they choose a non verbal form of communication, eg. don't force a child to say sorry
- Expressing interest in all tamariki and their activities, joining them in their play where appropriate
- Ensuring space or appropriate assistance is given during toileting
- Have the right to privacy while toileting

Every taitamaiti is given positive guidance promoting appropriate behaviour, having regard to the taitamaiti's development through:

- Planning the environment and routines to minimize confrontation and conflict
- Educators and kaiako demonstration of preferred behaviour
- Use redirection, distraction, offering alternatives with simple explanations, emphasis on the positive behaviour we wish to see
- Being consistent and having manageable expectations
- Giving support in dealing with conflict and frustration, empowering older tamariki to resolve their own conflict
- Encouragement of appropriate and positive language, offering ideas and solutions
- Discussion and negotiation of rights, fairness and justice with adults
- Opportunities for tamariki to discuss their feelings and feelings and expectations of others
- An understanding of the consequences of stepping beyond the limits of acceptable behaviour, Kaiako will explain to tamariki why they are not 'making good choices' and will be asked to go inside/outside and make 'better choices'.
- If necessary, a kaiako will help the taitamaiti re-direct into another activity, encouraging them to make good choices and giving lots of praise to support them in this transition
- The Key Kaiako and/or Centre Manager will meet with the taitamaiti and whānau if unacceptable behaviour continues to occur.
- A behaviour plan will be discussed and will be reviewed regularly with the teaching team
- All concerns and behavior plans will be filed in the Focus Folder and available to Kaiako
- The Centre Manager will discuss concerns with the team and will seek help from other agencies as required

Every taitamaiti is given positive guidance using praise and encouragement by:

- Using appropriate language
- Praising tamariki when playing co-operatively and when turn taking
- Focusing on the desired behaviour

Tamariki are given guidance and control but are not subjected to physical ill treatment, solitary confinement, immobilization or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter or protection. They are:

- Allowed space to cool, calm down after an incident
- Supported and guided in conflict resolution
- Allocated time to talk through what happened
- Provided with more adult support possibly by one to one support and/or to resettle and redirect play

Every taitamaiti will be given guidance on how to make the right choice but if they continue to make the 'wrong choice' the kaiako will intervene:

- If tamariki are displaying unacceptable behavior, kaiako will take immediate action to discuss the behaviour with the taitamaiti.
- All kaiako will be consistent in approach and will remind tamariki of the ways in which their behaviour is unacceptable.
- Kaiako will role model acceptable behaviour and give strategies and language to tamariki to promote social skills.
- If a kaiako member needs to constantly remind a taitamaiti about his or her behavior, the taitamaiti will be discussed at the next Planning Meeting to encourage multiple voices and a whole team action plan.
- If a kaiako member notices that a taitamaiti's behaviour is constantly or increasingly unacceptable, a record of this will be made in the Focus Folder and it will be further discussed at the next planning meeting.
- Kaiako will discuss their concerns with and seek input from whānau if the taitamaiti's behaviour continues to be unacceptable at the centre.
- If needed, an Individual Behaviour Plan will be discussed with the whānau, the Centre Manager and the Key Kaiako and goals will be set. This will be reviewed regularly to see if goals have been met.
- If there is any concern from the whānau, the Key Kaiako or the Centre Manager, then outside agencies will be contacted with parental permission to assist. A record of any meeting will be recorded in the Focus Folder.