

# FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

## CHECKPOINT SERIES

# INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN

The approved provider of a family day care service must have policies and procedures in place relating to the expectations for interactions with children.<sup>1</sup>

Standard 1.1 of the National Quality Standard looks at the importance of using an approved framework to guide interactions with families, children and colleagues. Quality Area 5 focuses on the provision of responsive and respectful relationships that enhance a sense of security and belonging.

## Key Points

Guiding principles for educators' interactions with children are below:

- Quality interactions are respectful and equitable.
- Nurturing relationships assist with the development of a sense of belonging, attachment and wellbeing, and positive self esteem.
- Positive behaviour guidance should enable children to begin to understand and control their own behaviours and to develop the skills to begin to resolve conflicts and negotiate outcomes with their peers.
- Children who are exposed to warm, respectful and trusting relationships are more able to express themselves, take on challenges and work through difficult social situations. They are also more likely to reciprocate the positive interactions and relationships that they are experiencing.

Interactions with children should:

- maintain the dignity and rights of all children;
- provide opportunities for self-expression and the voicing of opinions;
- incorporate children's family and cultural values;
- provide positive guidance, encouragement and reinforcement;
- enable opportunities to develop independence;
- support the development of self esteem;
- reflect their ages, needs and abilities; and
- consider the size of the group.

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Please note that the information in this Fact Sheet represents general guidance only to encourage critical reflection on your practice. If the content raises any concerns for you, please check with your Coordinator or Service.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation 168(2)(j)

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### Checkpoint Questions

- Are you aware of the service's policies and procedures for interactions with children?
- Do staff and educators model positive interactions during visits, play sessions and planned events?
- Are there opportunities for you to learn and refine the use of effective communication strategies?
- Do you receive support from the coordination unit when experiencing difficulties with establishing positive relationships with the children in your care?

As an educator, do you:

- value and consider children's family and cultural beliefs?
- provide children with support, respect and acceptance?
- ensure that children experience a safe, secure and nurturing environment?
- utilise positive behaviour guidance and strategies?
- support children in their attempts at communication and interaction with their peers?
- engage and interact with each child?
- acknowledge each child and accept their individuality?
- encourage children to make choices and decisions?
- show an interest and participate in what the children are doing?

### Useful Resources

[Information Sheet - ACECOA - Relationships with children](#)

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