Statement of Shared Commitment

Every interaction counts.

"When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job."

United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, Article 3 (children's version)

Every child attending a Queensland early childhood education and care service, including school age care, has the right to feel safe - culturally, emotionally and physically.

Engaging in inappropriate, unkind, discriminatory or disrespectful interactions with children including inappropriate discipline can have profound and lasting consequences, impacting a child's emotional wellbeing, trust in others, and overall development. Not only is this kind of conduct unprofessional and unethical, it's against the law.

We recognise and appreciate the critical role of early childhood educators, including teachers, in creating nurturing environments filled with positive interactions that support children's social and emotional development, stimulate learning, and allow children to build a sense of belonging.

By working together and supporting all educators to be their best every day, we can ensure that our services are a place where children feel safe, secure and self-confident.

This Statement of Shared Commitment has been collaboratively developed between sector stakeholders, peak bodies and government. It recognises that the role of educators can be challenging, but with the right guidance and support to nurture positive relationships with children, we can make sure that **every interaction counts**.

Roles and responsibilities

Educators

Be accountable:

- step in to protect children whenever you see harmful interactions, or if you see a colleague needing assistance
- report any inappropriate interactions with children to your nominated supervisor or service leader
- self-regulate your emotions, and be ready to ask for help when you need it.

Be informed: spend time learning about children's social and emotional development and ways to promote adaptability and self-regulation.

Be reflective: regularly reflect on your practice and participate in the development and improvement of a safeguarding culture.

Be child-centred: engage with each child to understand their unique developmental and wellbeing needs, interests and cultural identity.

Providers and service leaders

Take action: prioritise safeguarding children and notify/report any inappropriate interaction with a child or children in our care.

Provide support: support the ongoing professional development of our educators, openly listen to any concerns, and make sure help is available if needed.

Foster positivity and creativity: promote supportive workplace cultures of reflective practice, invite creative ideas, and create opportunities for collaboration with colleagues to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

Value staff: set high expectations for conduct but also recognise the value of our educators' work and support their wellbeing.

The Regulatory Authority

Inform and support: provide information and advice on quality and compliance obligations related to interactions with children to educators, providers and service leaders.

Be responsive: all notifications or complaints related to inappropriate interactions with a child or children will be actioned based on risk.

Act fairly to enforce the law: ensure that our response to identified non-compliance is appropriate to the risk posed to children.

Recognise achievements: identify best practice and promote the actions of individuals or services focussed on positive interactions with children.

Find out more: Whether you are an educator, provider or service leader, visit the Queensland Early Childhood Regulatory Authority website to access a range of resources that will help put this Commitment into practice.

MEMORIAL PARK COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN

Queensland Government