BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe behaviour is a form of communication and that children need to express emotions such as anger, frustration and distress, but may need help, at times, to express these feelings appropriately. We believe children learn best when they experience success and have a positive self-image, and have a “good” relationship with their teacher(s). Forming and maintaining a supportive, positive, caring relationship with each child is vital in any learning situation and remains paramount. We acknowledge that each child is an individual who comes to preschool with his/her own culture and already formed behaviour code.

As a staff team we believe:

- All children have the right to feel safe
- Effective learning occurs when families and educators work together.
- No child should be made to feel rejected, insecure, embarrassed or ashamed

EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations of behaviour are based on CARE and RESPECT, and PRESCHOOL SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS. We aim to encourage children to develop empathy and understanding, self-respect, self-discipline and self-control. We support new learners through planning, clear information, modelling and mentoring.

- We respect and care
  - for each other
  - for our things
  - for our environment and
- We use social language and actions

RESPONSE

At Gawler East Preschool we will employ various methods to nurture positive behaviour, reduce inappropriate behaviour and manage challenging behaviour. Inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour can range from simply not following direction to dangerous/hurtful or inappropriate actions or language, through to violence and bullying. Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group. Conflict or fights between equals, and single incidents are not defined as bullying. All bullying and single incidents are treated on an individual basis and, in ongoing or more challenging situations, an individually tailored behaviour plan may be required.

Methods we would use include:

- Teaching and reinforcing “Safe kindy Rules”
- Positive teaching techniques to reinforce appropriate behaviours, including distracting, positive reinforcement, redirecting, ignoring, early intervention, positive guidance and/or visual aids
- Teaching children to recognise and express feelings appropriately through informal and formal learning opportunities
- Supporting children to problem solve, negotiate, find resolutions and manage emotions appropriately
- Intentional teaching of appropriate behaviours, communication and play skills
- Providing a nurturing environment that promotes a sense of belonging and self-worth, and values the individual.
- Interacting positively, using positive language and acknowledging and modelling respectful behaviour
- Withdrawing children to be with a supportive adult when they are at risk of hurting themselves or others

In some instances it may be necessary to include the following:

- Using “Time Away” for dangerous or for repeated unacceptable behaviour. The child will be asked to sit quietly to think about the behaviour. The child will be monitored by staff.
- Contacting the parent to collect their child from preschool, if behaviour escalates, and/or it is in the best interests of the child or other children.

Where possible every effort is made to inform parents of any general behaviour issues and/or behaviour issues that involve their child. They will not however breach confidentiality by informing them of any other parent or child involved in any incident(s). It is an expectation of the preschool that parents do not approach any child or parent of that child about any behaviour incident at the preschool. Please consider the Parent Grievance Policy and/or speak to the Preschool Director.