

Children's Rights and Entitlements

Policy Statement

We promote children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by creating an environment in our setting that encourages children to:

- develop a positive self-image, which includes their heritage arising from their colour and ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background;
- develop a sense of autonomy and independence; and
- establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers, and with other adults;

We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be 'strong, resilient and listened to'.

To be strong means to be:

- secure in their foremost attachment relationships, where they are loved and cared for by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on;
- safe and valued as individual individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family such as playgroup staff;
- self-assured and formed a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
- included equally and belong in early years settings and in community life;
- confident in abilities and proud of their achievements;
- progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning;
- be able to represent themselves and learn to negotiate and develop social skills as part of a peer group; and
- to respect the rights of others in a diverse world.

To be resilient means to:

- be sure of their self-worth and dignity;
- be able to be assertive and state their needs effectively;

- be able to overcome difficulties and problems;
- be positive in their outlook on life;
- have a sense of justice towards themselves and others; and
- develop a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others.

To be listened to means:

- Adults who are close to children recognise their need and right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas;
- Adults who are close to children are able to tune in to their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated;
- Adults who are close to children are able to respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding of what children express and communicate; and
- Adults respect children's rights and facilitate children's participation and representation in an imaginative and child centred way.

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