



Interactions With Children Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

Mutually supportive relationships and interactions are integral to quality education and camp program settings. Secure respectful and responsive relationships between and amongst children and adults provide the foundation upon which the community is established. This policy meets the requirements of the Education and Care National Law and Regulations (2011), honors the rights of all children and guides Camp Leaders/Carers in supporting each child's learning and development under the standards, learning outcomes and principles of the National Quality Framework.

2. POLICY

Through positive, supportive and intentional relationship building, all educators/carers will ensure that Life Skills & Adventures camps provide education and care to children in a way that facilitated the following:

a) Children are encouraged to express themselves and their opinions;

- All children contribute ideas based on their current interests and skills
- Children participate in the documentation of their activities, participation, achievements and learning
- Children's reflections, contributions, ideas, feedback and opinions are sought by the educators/camp leaders regularly throughout the program and in a variety of situations. Their feedback is used to enhance and enrich the program.
- Educators/camp leaders monitor, support, facilitate and guide interactions between peers where required.
- Relationships are strengthened as leaders and children share decisions, respect and trust each other and learn together

b) Camp Leaders ensure children undertake experiences that develop self-reliance and self-esteem;

- Children are provided opportunities to take on levels of responsibility and have their say in decisions that affect that and have their opinions taken into account
- The camping program of activities is planned, evaluated, extended on to facilitate the individual's strengths and interests and to ensure children have opportunities to try new activities, take risks and develop a sense of achievement.

c) The dignity and rights of each child are maintained at all times

- The United Nations 'Rights of the child' are respected at all times and promoted
- Camp Leaders will ensure at all times the environment and interactions reflect and promote respect for the individual and will facilitate the children's development of skills to ensure all interactions are non-bias, non-discriminatory, non-threatening, respectful, will not humiliate, scare, threaten or harm any other person.
- All leaders will role model and promote respect, democracy, honesty, integrity, justice, courage and a collaborative environment for all users to promote a positive interactive learning community

d) Each child is given positive guidance and encouragement toward acceptable behaviour

- Children are consulted on the strategies for positive and acceptable behaviour at the camp.
- Camp Leaders discuss the strategies with the children individually and in a group situation on a regular basis.
- Leaders role model respectful and positive interactions with the children, with each other and with families.
- Camp leaders value the partnership with families and actively collaborate with families to develop positive guidance strategies where appropriate
- Camp leaders promote and role model positive guidance and conflict resolution through supportive interactions, role modeling and play.

e) Camp Leaders have regard to the family and cultural values, age and physical and intellectual development and abilities of each child being educated and cared for by the camp.

- Diversity of age, cultural values and interests is respected, celebrated and incorporated into the camp program.
- The children will not be required to participate in activities that are inappropriate in relation to each child's family and cultural values, age and physical and intellectual development or capacity.
- Camp Leaders, Management and all LSA stakeholders role model non-discriminatory behavior at all times and without exception

f) Relationships in Groups

Life Skills & Adventures, together with the responsible person and applicable delegated Camp Leader must ensure the camp program:

- takes reasonable steps to ensure there are opportunities for children to interact and develop respectful and positive relationships with each other and with staff members of, and volunteers at, the camp.
- provides camp leaders with appropriate guidance around planned and spontaneous interactions with children and provide leaders with appropriate information about participants in order to initiate interactions.
- has regard to the size and the composition of the groups in which children are being educated and cared for at the camp.

3. DEFINITIONS

Intentionality- involves camp leaders / carers being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions

Wellbeing- Includes happiness and satisfaction, effective social functioning and the dispositions of optimism, openness, curiosity and resilience.

4. SCOPE

The scope of this policy applies to all approved Camp Programs undertaken by Life Skills & Adventures.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Department/Area	Role/Responsibility
Operations	All Carers/Camp Leaders will be provided with this policy annually and are responsible for the daily implementation of the policy when directly supervising children.
Company Director	Is responsible for ensuring suitable resources and support systems to enable compliance with this policy. Drive the consultation process and provide leadership and advice on the continuous improvement of the policy. Responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the Policy and related systems, ensuring all content meets all legislated requirements.
Company Director	Approve the Policy and Provide official sign off on the Policy
CEO	Approve the Policy Provide official sign off on the Policy

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The ongoing monitoring and compliance of this policy will be overseen by the LSA Director. Each program will complete an annual self-assessment against this procedure, associated policy and the legislated standards from which it was drawn.

The evaluation of the policy will be facilitated by the LSA Director using stakeholder feedback to drive continuous improvement and reflect service users' comments where practical.

7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework \(VEYLDF\)](#)
- [National Early Years Learning Framework \(EYLF\)](#)
- [My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Law Act](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- Programming and Planning in Early Childhood Settings 4th Edition; 2007
- [Guide to the National Quality Standard: Quality Area 5](#)
- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics](#)
- [UNICEF Australia](#)