



## ***YMCA Child Guidance Procedure ~ Supporting Positive Interactions with Children (CECE)***

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At the YMCA, we believe that everyone has the right to feel safe and welcome while participating in our programs. We promote respectful interactions between children and their peers and between children and adults. As early childhood educators, we understand that children may become frustrated and will need our support to redirect their actions for positive outcomes. Our educators receive ongoing support and training internally and externally through our community partners/experts to help guide children's behaviours in a positive way.

Some of the strategies we use include, but are not limited to:

- Acknowledge the child's feelings and restate how they are feeling;
- Try and involve the child in solutions or ideas of how to help them with their problem; and
- Support positive interactions and help guide challenging behaviour.

As educators the following strategies are used, but are not limited to:

- Redirection (I.e. Would you like to do a puzzle or read a book together?);
- Use logical and natural consequences (I.e. How do you think that makes your friend feel?);
- Setting Limits for all children (I.e. Use your words, hands hurt.);
- Role modeling and praise providing choices and time for children to adjust and plan for transitions;
- Educators can anticipate reactions or behaviours by observing or to be close by to assist; and
- Support self-regulation (help the child with their coping skills).

Some of the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) strategies we use include:

- Nurturing responsible relationships;
- Forming positive perspectives;
- Promoting the development of self-regulation; and
- Reflecting on professional practices.

Unfortunately, there may be times when the above-noted strategies are just not working and the behaviour affects the health, safety or well-being of the child, other children, adults, participants or staff. In these cases each situation is treated individually and consultations with the supervisor, family and external supportive partners may be required to find the best resolution for a positive outcome for everyone.

Should the behaviour be consistently intentional and harms others (physically or emotionally); the YMCA will contact the parent to discuss the behaviour and strategies. However, depending on the seriousness of the behaviour, the child may be required to be picked up early or suspended if the behaviour is consistent and affects the safety and well-being of all participants. All other strategies will be put in place before suspension is a consideration.

YMCA Child Care is a shared experience for everyone to enjoy. The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario holds the right to discontinue services if the well-being and safety of others are at risk.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping to make the YMCA a safe place for everyone.

Parent/Guardian of (Name of Child): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_