

MJCC CODE OF ETHICS

In relation to children, I will:

1. Respect the rights of children as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and commit to advocating for these rights.
2. Acknowledge children as competent and capable learners and provide opportunities to extend and enhance learning and success.
3. Support children to develop a sense of belonging and inclusion.
4. Work with children to help them understand that they are global citizens and have shared responsibilities to the environment and to humanity.
5. Ensure that children are not discriminated against on the basis of gender, age, ability, economic status, family structure, lifestyle, ethnicity, religion, language, culture and national origin.
6. Act in the best interests of the children.
7. Recognise and respect children's right to play, as both a process and context for learning.
8. Acknowledge the holistic nature of children's learning and the importance of children's cultural and linguistic individualities.
9. Acknowledge children as active citizens participating in different communities e.g. family, school, and childcare.
10. Respect the special relationships between children and their families and incorporate this perspective in all my interactions with children.
11. Create and maintain safe, healthy environments, spaces and places, which enhance children's learning, development, engagement, initiative, self-worth, and dignity and show respect for their contributions.
12. Work to ensure children and families with additional needs can exercise their rights.
13. Acknowledge the uniqueness and potential of all children, in recognition that enjoying their childhood without unwarranted pressure is important.

In relation to families, I will:

1. Develop positive relationships based on mutual trust and open communication.
2. Assist families to develop a sense belonging and inclusion.
3. Listen to and learn from families, in order to acknowledge and build upon their strengths and capabilities, and support them in their role of nurturing children.
4. Respect the uniqueness of each family and strive to learn about their culture, structure, lifestyle, customs, language and beliefs.
5. Develop partnerships with families and engage in shared decision making where appropriate.

6. Acknowledge the rights of families to make decisions about their children.
7. Develop shared planning, evaluations and observation practices for children's learning and communicate this through appropriate channels.
8. Maintain confidentiality and respect the right of the family to privacy.
9. Acknowledge that each family is affected by the community contexts in which they engage.
10. Be sensitive to the vulnerabilities of children and families and respond in ways that empower and maintain the dignity of all children and families.

In relation to colleagues, I will:

1. Encourage my colleagues to adopt and act in accordance with the Code, and take action in appropriate presence of unethical behaviours.
2. See and build collaborative, professional relationships based on trust, mutual respect with other educators.
3. Acknowledge and support the personal strengths, professional experience and diversity within the staff team.
4. Contribute to the program by sharing knowledge and research including your routine documentation and observations of children learning and development.
5. Work in partnership with my colleagues to generate a culture of continual reflection and renewal of high-quality practices in our service.
6. Make every effort to use constructive methods to manage differences of opinion in the spirit of collegiality.

In relation to communities, I will:

1. Learn about the communities that I work within and enact programs, which are responsive to those contexts.
2. Connect with people, services and agencies within the communities that support children and families.
3. Promote shared aspirations amongst communities in order to enhance children's health and wellbeing.
4. Work to promote community understanding of how children learn, in order that suitable systems of assessment and reporting are used to benefit children.

In relation to management, I will:

1. Support service policies, standards and practices that are fair, non-discriminatory and are in the best interests of children and families.
2. Promote and support ongoing professional development within my work team.
3. Abide by lawful policies and procedures and, when there is conflict, attempt to effect change through constructive action within the service or seek change through appropriate procedures.

In relation to myself as a professional, I will:

1. Base my work on contemporary perspectives on research theory, content knowledge, high-quality middle childhood practices and my understandings of the children and families with whom I work.
2. Regard myself as a learner who undertakes reflection, critical self-study, and continuing professional development and engages with contemporary theory and practice.
3. Seek and build collaborative professional relationships.
4. Mentor other childhood professionals and students.
5. Act in ways that advance the interests and standing of my profession.
6. Work within the limits of my professional role and avoid misrepresentation of my professional competence and qualifications.
7. Advocate in relation to issues that impact on my profession and on young children and their families.
8. Encourage qualities and practices of leadership within the middle childhood profession.

In relation to the conduct of research, I will:

1. Recognise that research includes my routine documentation and investigations of children's learning and development.
2. Be responsive to children's participation in research, negotiating their involvement taking account of matters such as safety, fatigue, privacy and their interests.
3. Support research to strengthen and expand the knowledge base of middle childhood, and where possible, initiate, contribute to, facilitate and distribute such research.
4. Make every effort to understand the purpose and value of proposed research projects and make informed decisions as to the participation of colleagues, children, families, communities and myself.
5. Ensure that images of children and other data are only collected with informed consent and are stored and utilised according to legislative and policy requirements.
6. Ensure research in which I am involved meets standards ethical procedures including informed consent, opportunity to withdraw and confidentiality.
7. Represent the findings of all research accurately.