

5.3 Children's Right to Develop in a Safe and Supportive Environment

Policy: Children have the right to a safe and supportive environment.

Background: Dr Montessori stated that a person's liberty is limited by the needs to other members of the community in which he moves. Man's "rights" are relative and bound up with responsibilities. Montessori Education concerns itself with removal of the obstacles that cause deviations to faculties during their formation. The physical treatment of children has greatly improved over the last 100 years however it is his psychic potential that one needs to explain to adults. Quite often barriers to the development of the child's psyche can be due to the adults' misunderstanding of the child's needs.

Relevant Legislation: Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998; Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010; Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011; Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Key Resources: ACECQA, UN Rights of the Child

National Regulations

82	Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment
83	Staff members and family day care educators not to be affected by alcohol or drugs
84	Awareness of child protection law
104	Fencing
155	Interactions with children
156	Relationships in groups
168	Policies and procedures

Un Rights of the Child

2	The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.
3	All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.
15	Children have the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.
19	Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.
23	Children who have any kind of disability should receive special care and support so that they can live a full and independent life.
24	Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Richer countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
28	Children have the right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthier countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
29	Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures.
31	Children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.
33	Governments should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.
34	Governments should protect children from sexual abuse.
36	Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

Development of Self

The Elonera Montessori's school system provides the students with the opportunity to:

- Observe
- Judge for themselves
- Orientate themselves
- Discover their own mistakes
- Correct their own mistakes
- Develop according to their inborn needs
- Develop proper psychological cycles by always being allowed to choose their own work and to be allowed to finish it
- Develop their power of choice

- Develop their will and therefore being able to control it in a social environment
- Develop their dignity

Environment

- Elonera is free from tabaco, illicit drugs and alcohol.
- The environment is inviting, clean and developmentally appropriate for each child.
- Safety and supervision are considered when designing classroom and outdoor environments.

Relationships

- Children are encouraged to work individually
- Children are encouraged to work in small groups
- Grace and Courtesy is modelled by staff and children.
- Staff talk to the children about the Charter of Respect.
- Staff are aware that supportive and positive relationships are important for child development.
- Staff speak to the children politely and respectfully at all times.
- For more information see 4.2 Positive Relationships.

Staff

- No staff are to be under the effects of illicit drugs or alcohol.
- All staff are encouraged to have child protection training
- All nominated Supervisors and Persons in Day to day Charge at Elonera must have child protection training.

Document Control

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