

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE



COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

The Ballarat YMCA will adopt the highest standards of behaviour, guidance and conduct at all times in the delivery of services, including our attitudes and behaviours towards children/young people, staff and members of the community.

YMCA approach behaviours with the YMCA values of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

PROCEDURES:

- Clear guidelines about acceptable behaviours will be developed with ongoing input from children/young people, parents, staff, management and reflect best practice. Parents/guardians will be able to access documentation regarding behaviour guidelines and expectations.
- Expectations of behaviour will be clearly expressed in positive terms and reinforced consistently in a developmentally appropriate way.
- Staff will understand that a child's behaviour can be affected by many factors including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Their age and development
 - Their general health and wellbeing
 - Staff strategies and practices
 - External factors such as family, home life, or media coverage of traumatic events

Staff will take these factors into consideration when adopting strategies to respond to challenging behaviours.

- Inappropriate behaviours that require immediate staff intervention include any behaviour which cause harm to the child/young person, or others including staff and other children/young people.
- Staff will demonstrate acceptable behaviours as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- Staff will show their respect by using normal tone and volume when speaking with children/young people; allowing older children greater freedom and responsibility in recognition of their developmental stage. Shouting at children should be avoided.
- When guiding a child/young person's behaviour, staff will identify the behaviour as the issue and not label the child/young person.
- No child will receive any form of corporal punishment, e.g. smacked, or be placed in a room alone, made immobile, frightened or humiliated in any way, verbally or emotionally punished or have food or drink withheld as a form of punishment.
- Staff will ensure that all children are protected from bullying, violence and harassment.
- Parents/Guardians who wish to discipline their own children whilst in the centre will not at any time use any form of corporal punishment or use unacceptable language.

- Staff will develop supportive relationships with the children/young people which encourages them to learn skills in self-discipline, conflict resolution and interacting with others in a positive manner.
- Staff will be given opportunities for professional development in regards to training and up to date information on strategies and ways to guide children/young people's behaviour. Where the behaviour is beyond the scope of staff training, other stakeholders will be approached to support strategy development.
- Staff will ensure children/young people's supervision is appropriate to their stage of development and protects their safety and wellbeing at all times.
- Staff, volunteers and Student Placements will be aware that best practice is to include transparency in their interactions and engagement of children/young people. This includes, where possible, not being in a position where they are alone with children/young people.
- Staff will be aware of all children/young people in their care at all times and will ensure their wellbeing.
- Staff will be aware of places that require extra supervision and position themselves to minimise danger or risk to harm.
- Staff ratios to children/young people will be maintained at all times to ensure effective supervision.
- There are formal expectations made by YMCA of the behaviour and conduct from children and young people and their parents/carers.
- The YMCA values respect, responsibility, honesty and caring and therefore has a zero tolerance to bullying.
- YMCA may exclude people from participation in programs and services if they, or their behaviour, falls outside of the defined target client group or scope of services. YMCA will endeavour to refer individuals to appropriate alternative services.
- All individuals may be excluded from participation in programs and services if they are adversely affected by alcohol, drugs and other behaviour altering substances or if they demonstrate inappropriate and unacceptable standards of behaviour as deemed by YMCA staff.
- The YMCA will not release children to Parents/Guardians who present as adversely affected by alcohol, drug and other behaviour altering substances. This is a risk factor to the safety of the child and in contravention of our SC&YP policy.

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