

Auchinairn Early Years Centre



Children's Rights Policy

Policy Statement

At Auchinairn Early Years Centre (EYC), we recognise that children have fundamental rights and we are committed to embedding these into every aspect of EYC life. This policy aligns with the Health and Wellbeing Standards for Early Years in Scotland, the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework, and key guidance such as Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Our practice supports children to develop an understanding of their rights through everyday play, experiences and positive relationships with adults and children. They learn about rights when their needs are recognised, respected and met within the EYC environment.

We focus on supporting children to develop empathy and an awareness of fairness and fairness towards others. Children are encouraged to build self-confidence, feel valued and know that their voices are listened to. They are supported to make choices, feel important within the EYC and develop a strong sense of belonging and identity.

Through respectful interactions with adults, children learn about fairness, respect and the importance of trusting relationships.

We actively support children to understand their rights and encourage staff to become advocates for children, including signing up for the Children's Parliament and joining the Army of Unfearties, empowering all children to have a voice.

How We Put Rights into Practice

In the Curriculum:

- Children's rights are embedded through child-led planning, voice, and choice in learning, and through inclusive play experiences.
- We use age-appropriate discussions, stories, and circle time activities to teach children about their rights and responsibilities.

- Staff ensure children have opportunities to reflect on their learning and experiences, fostering awareness of equality, respect, and fairness.

Children's rights are embedded through child-led planning, voice, and choice in learning, supported by the SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies:

- Safe Stella – safety and protection
- Health Henry – health and wellbeing
- Achieving Andrew – learning and skills
- Nurtured Nora – emotional care
- Active Amir – play and physical activity
- Respected Rhiya – respect and inclusion
- Responsible Robbie – personal responsibility
- Included Isabella – belonging and participation

In Relationships:

- Practitioners form secure, respectful relationships and use the SHANARRI Buddies to talk to children about rights in a friendly, understandable way.
- Children are supported to build friendships, negotiate differences, and resolve conflicts with guidance from the buddies' principles.
- Staff model rights-respecting behaviour and refer to buddies when praising or supporting children, helping embed understanding of safety, respect, and responsibility.

In Inclusion and Equality:

- We celebrate diversity and promote equality, ensuring every child is seen, heard, and valued, with the buddies used as a visual and interactive guide to inclusion.
- The nursery challenges stereotypes and discrimination, using the buddies to help children relate inclusion to their rights.
- Children explore identity and empathy through stories and activities linked to the buddies.

In Safeguarding & Child Protection:

- We follow robust safeguarding and child protection procedures uphold every child's right to protection.
- Staff are trained to recognise risks and act promptly, often using buddies' examples to help children understand who to approach if they feel unsafe.

- The buddies help children voice concerns in ways they understand, supporting their right to be heard.
- Our safeguarding and Child Protection practice aligns with Scottish Government guidance, Care Inspectorate standards, and local authority child protection procedures.

Staff Roles in Rights Advocacy:

- Staff use SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies to communicate rights in child-friendly language, making abstract ideas tangible.
- All staff are encouraged to sign up to the Children's Parliament and join the Army of Unfearties, promoting advocacy for children's rights.
- Continuous professional development ensures staff embed buddies into planning, observation, and praise, connecting learning, care, and wellbeing to rights.

Rights Respecting EYC Commitment

- Our Children's Rights Policy supports our work as a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting EYC Award setting. We are proud to have achieved our Bronze: Rights Committed Award and are actively working towards Silver: Rights Aware and Gold: Rights Respecting status.
- Children's rights, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are embedded across our curriculum, relationships, and EYC environment. Through our SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies, children learn about their rights in meaningful and age-appropriate ways and are supported to express their views, make choices, and participate in decisions that affect them.
- Our commitment to the Rights Respecting EYC Award ensures that children's rights are not only taught but lived and experienced every day by children, staff, and families within our nursery community.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Equality and Diversity Policy

Behaviour Management Policy

Health and Wellbeing Standards – Early Years Scotland: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.4,

Care Inspectorate Quality Framework

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

UNCRC (1989), ratified by the UK in 1991: Article 2, Article 3, Article 6, Article 12, Article 19, Article 23, Article 24, Article 28, Article 29, Article 31
Children's Parliament and Army of Unfearties resources

This policy has been updated after consultation with staff and parent/carer

Signed.....

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